



FBI director warns of ongoing Russian 'information warfare'

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Chris Wray said Wednesday that Russia is engaged in "information warfare" heading into the 2020 presidential election, though he said law enforcement has not seen ongoing efforts by Russia to target America's election infrastructure. Wray told the House Judiciary Committee that Russia, just as it did in 2016, is relying on a covert social media campaign aimed at dividing American public opinion and sowing discord. That effort, which involves fictional personas, bots, social media postings and disinformation, may have an election-year up-tick but is also a round-the-clock threat that is in some ways harder to combat than an election system hack, Wray said.

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FBI Director Christopher Wray is sworn in as he testifies during an oversight hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 in Washington.

Associated Press



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"Unlike a cyberattack on an election infrastructure, that kind of effort — disinformation — in a world where we have a First Amendment and believe strongly in freedom of expression, the FBI is not going to be in the business of being the truth police and monitoring disinformation online," Wray said.

The FBI and Department of Homeland Security are on alert for election-related cyberactivity like what occurred in 2016, when Russians hacked emails belonging to the Democratic campaign of nominee Hillary Clinton and probed local election systems for vulnerabilities.

But, Wray said Wednesday, "I don't think we've seen any ongoing efforts to target election infrastructure like we did in 2016."

His appearance came two days after Democratic presidential caucuses in Iowa were marred by a malfunctioning app that caused a delay in the reporting of results. Though local and federal officials have stressed that the problems weren't caused by a foreign intrusion, the error played into existing



FBI Director Christopher Wray testifies during an oversight hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 in Washington.

unease surrounding election security and risked amplifying concerns among American about the integrity of the voting process. Even without signs of election system targeting, Wray said Russian efforts to interfere in the election through disinformation had not tapered off since 2016. He said social media had injected "steroids" into those efforts.

"They identify an issue that they know that the American people feel passionately about on both sides and then they take both

sides and spin them up so they pit us against each other," Wray said. "And then they combine that with an effort to weaken our confidence in our elections and our democratic institutions, which has been a pernicious and asymmetric way of engaging in ... information warfare."

At another point in the hearing, Wray avoided a direct answer when asked if President Donald Trump, Attorney General William Barr or other administration officials had asked him for investigations into Trump

Democratic rival Joe Biden, his son Hunter, or into any members of Congress.

The question was posed by Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, the committee chairman and one of seven House Democratic managers of the impeachment case. He asked whether Trump had requested FBI investigations into the Bidens, lawmakers or former national security adviser John Bolton — who is due out with a book next month said to undercut a key Trump defense — as possible payback for impeachment.

Wray initially said: "I have assured the Congress, and I can assure the Congress today, that the FBI will only open investigations based on the facts, and the law and proper predication."

After Nadler said he assumed that answer meant that neither Trump nor Barr nor other administration officials had requested improper political investigations, Wray tried again: "No one has asked me to open an investigation based on anything other than facts, the law and proper predication."

Trump has sought, without evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father, as vice president, was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Ukraine. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no

evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden.

Wray's appearance was his first since a Justice Department inspector general report that sharply criticized the FBI's surveillance of former Trump campaign aide national security Carter Page. The errors produced rare bipartisan calls for changes to the federal government's surveillance powers.

The report identified what it said were significant errors in applications to eavesdrop on Page, including omitting critical information that cut against the FBI's original premise that Page was a Russian agent — something he has repeatedly denied.

After the report was issued, Wray told The Associated Press that the mistakes were "unacceptable and unrepresentative of who we are as an institution." He repeated that message to lawmakers Wednesday.

The then-chief judge of the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which authorizes wiretapping of subjects on American soil in national security investigations, responded to the report with an extraordinary public rebuke of the FBI and demanded that the bureau report back on what it was doing to fix the problems.

The FBI has laid out a series of changes designed to ensure warrant applications are more closely scrutinized before being submitted for a judge's approval and that they contain accurate information about the reliability and potential bias of sources whom agents rely on. The Justice Department has also said the surveillance of Page should have ended before it did.

Wray bristled at the suggestion from some Republican lawmakers that he did not take the report's criticism seriously enough.

"I've been a prosecutor. I've been a defense attorney, I've been an assistant attorney general, I've been an FBI director," Wray said. "To me, candor to the court is sacrosanct, and I don't think there's anybody in the FBI who's belaboring under the misimpression that I think it's OK to mislead a court." □

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Madoff seeks prison release, citing terminal kidney failure

NEW YORK (AP) — Epic Ponzi schemer Bernard Madoff asked a federal judge Wednesday to grant him a "compassionate release" from his 150-year prison sentence, saying he has terminal kidney failure and less than 18 months to live.

Madoff's attorney filed court papers saying the 81-year-old has end-stage kidney disease and other "chronic, serious medical conditions," including hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

"There's no cure for my type

of disease," Madoff told The Washington Post in a phone interview, expressing remorse for orchestrating the largest Ponzi scheme in history.

After spending more than a decade behind bars, Madoff said his dying wish is to salvage his relationships with his grandchildren.

"I've served 11 years already," he said, "and, quite frankly, I've suffered through it."

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan declined to comment. Prosecutors are expected to file a motion in



In this Tuesday, March 10, 2009, file photo, former financier Bernie Madoff exits federal court in Manhattan, in New York.



Associated Press


response to the request in the coming days.

Madoff pleaded guilty in 2009 to 11 federal counts in a fraudulent investment scheme involving billions of dollars, admitting he swindled thousands of clients over decades. The rich and famous were among his victims, as well as people of lesser means who had invested with him unknowingly through feeder funds. The new court filings say Madoff was admitted in July to the palliative care unit of the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina. □

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Not guilty: Senate acquits Trump of impeachment charges

By **LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in American history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" stood and stated their votes for the roll call — "guilty" or "not guilty" — in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines. Trump, the chief justice then declared, shall "be, and is hereby, acquitted of the charges."

The outcome followed months of remarkable impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House to Mitch McConnell's Senate, reflecting the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

What started as Trump's request for Ukraine to "do us a favor" spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing an American president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election. No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

A politically emboldened Trump had eagerly predicted vindication, deploying the verdict as a political anthem in his reelection bid. The president claims he did nothing wrong, decrying the "witch hunt" as an extension of special counsel



In this image from video, Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts speaks before the vote in the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

Robert Mueller's probe into Russian 2016 campaign interference by those out to get him from the start of his presidency.

Trump's political campaign tweeted videos, statements and a cartoon dance celebration, while the president himself tweeted that he would speak Thursday from the White House about "our Country's VICTORY on the Impeachment Hoax."

However, the Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said there will always be "a giant asterisk next to the president's acquittal" because of the Senate's quick trial and Republicans' unprecedented rejection of witnesses.

A majority of senators expressed unease with Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine that resulted in the two articles of impeachment. But two-thirds of them would have had to vote "guilty" to reach the Constitution's bar of high crimes and misdemeanors to convict and remove Trump from office. The final tallies in the GOP-held Senate fell far short.

On the first article of impeachment, abuse of power, the vote was 52-48 favoring acquittal. The second, obstruction of Congress, also produced a not guilty verdict, 53-47.

Only one Republican, Mitt Romney of Utah, the party's defeated 2012 presidential nominee, broke with the GOP.

Romney choked up as he said he drew on his faith and "oath before God" to vote guilty on the first charge, abuse of power. He voted to acquit on the second.

All Democrats found the president guilty on the two charges.

Both Bill Clinton in 1999 and Andrew Johnson in 1868 drew cross-party support when they were left in office after impeachment trials. Richard Nixon resigned rather than face sure impeachment, expecting members of his own party to vote to remove him.

Ahead of Wednesday's voting, some of the most closely watched senators took to the Senate floor to tell their constituents, and

the nation, what they had decided.

Influential GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee worried a guilty verdict would "pour gasoline on the fire" of the nation's culture wars over Trump and "rip the country apart." He said the House proved its case but it just didn't rise to the level of impeachment. Other Republicans siding with Trump said it was

time to end what McConnell called the "circus" and move on. Most Democrats, though, echoed the House managers' warnings that Trump, if left unchecked, would continue to abuse the power of his office for personal political gain and try to cheat again ahead of the the 2020 election.

Even key Democrats from states where Trump is popular — Doug Jones in Alabama and Joe Manchin in West Virginia — risked backlash and voted to convict. "Senators are elected to make tough choices," Jones said.

Several senators trying to win the Democratic Party's nomination to face Trump — Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar — dashed back from early primary state New Hampshire to vote.

During the nearly three-week trial, House Democrats prosecuting the case argued that Trump abused power like no other president in history when he pressured Ukraine to investigate Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, ahead of the 2020 election. □

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Companies offer rebuke of Tennessee's anti-LGBT adoption law

By JONATHAN MATTISE
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Almost three dozen big companies and more than 100 small businesses in Tennessee on Wednesday predicted economic backlash from a newly enacted state adoption law and other proposals that target LGBT people, with one company saying plans to add jobs in Nashville are "in doubt" over the legislation. The letter from the likes of Amazon, Nike and Nissan to state officials offered the biggest rebuke to date from the business community after GOP Gov. Bill Lee last month signed the adoption bill and made it effective immediately. Representatives from Dell, Warner Music Nashville, Postmates, Nashville Soccer Club spoke at a Nashville news conference announcing the letter. Donna Drehmann of Postmates said the food delivery company might not go through with plans to add to its base of 650 account managers, support workers and tech employees in Nashville, saying the company is "alarmed by the Lee administration's anti-LGBTQ agenda" and that bills targeting that community are "just plain wrong" and promote "flagrant hatred." "We do look at expanding additional technology jobs here in Nashville," said Drehmann, Postmates director of service quality and training. "However, that is in doubt and that is always in

question, especially when we have bills like what were introduced this year."

The new law would assure continued taxpayer funding of faith-based foster care and adoption agencies even if they exclude LGBT families and others based on religious beliefs. Current adoption practices in Tennessee are not expected to change, as some faith-based agencies had already not allowed gay couples to adopt. Lee, a religiously conservative businessman, argued the law would better protect religious liberty. It was the first proposal he signed into law this year.

The state House passed the bill last year and the Senate passed the adoption bill on the first day of legislative session last month, sending it to Lee for approval.

"We thought we had more time this session," said Joe Woolley, CEO of the Nashville LGBT Chamber. "I am surprised and upset that that is the first bill that the Tennessee Senate took up this legislative session, especially when you look at the issues that this state is facing."

Email records show a private outside legal opinion was forwarded to the governor's senior staff by a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's public policy arm. The opinion was written by a group of attorneys with expertise on religious liberty laws, and said "religious providers need not violate their con-



LGBT advocacy group leaders and representatives from businesses gathered at the Cordell Hull legislative building in Nashville on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 for a news conference to oppose a state adoption law and other proposals that target the LGBT community.

Associated Press

science" as long as other child-placing agencies and the state keep providing readily available alternatives.

The law kicks in at a time when Tennessee continues to grow, with booming Nashville setting the pace. The Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation

hasn't lost any business yet due to the adoption law, but has "fielded many, many calls" about meetings and conventions that have shortlisted or are considering Nashville, said corporation senior vice president for public affairs Andrea Arnold.

The NHL's Nashville Preda-

tors warned that "passing discriminatory legislation would limit revenue for the city of Nashville and the state of Tennessee by inhibiting our ability to secure events like those and future events such as league marquee events, NCAA games, award shows and countless potential concerts." □

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Appeals court weighs tribe's quest for casino land

BOSTON (AP) — A Native American tribe's long running effort to secure sovereign land for a casino in Massachusetts is now in the hands of a federal appeals court in Boston.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit heard arguments Wednesday in an appeal brought by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, which was granted hundreds of acres of land in trust by the federal government before a judge overturned the decision in 2016.

The three-judge panel, which included retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter, pressed lawyers on the legal particulars of the case, but are expected to rule later.

Lawyers for the casino opponents declined to comment after the hearing, but tribe leaders said the case represents more than the promise of a new casino.

Uncertainty about the tribe's trust lands, which were declared a tribal reservation by the Obama administration, has also created funding problems and other complications for the tribe's government programs and services, said Cedric Cromwell, the tribe's chairman.

"We're hurting, and we've carried this burden for so long," he said. "We're just asking for justice. We want to live and provide for our elders and our children."

The tribe and its supporters have said the case sets a



Tela Troge, right, a lawyer for the Shinnecock Indian Nation from Southampton, N.Y., speaks outside federal court Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, in Boston.

Associated Press

dangerous precedent as it represents the first time in the modern era that a tribe has had trust lands stripped away.

"It's about our tribal rights. The land that we live on. The blood and bones of our ancestors," Cromwell said. "We've never moved. We've always remained here. We should have our land intact. That's what it's really about."

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe was granted 321 acres of land in trust in 2015 by then-President Barack Obama, a move that carved out the federally-protected land needed for the tribe to develop its planned \$1 billion First Light

casino, hotel and entertainment resort.

But a group of residents sued, arguing the federal government couldn't take land into trust for the tribe because it wasn't officially recognized as of June 1, 1934. That was the year the federal Indian Reorganization Act, which laid the foundation for modern federal Indian policy, became law.

The Cape Cod-based tribe, which traces its ancestry to the Native Americans that shared a fall harvest meal with the Pilgrims in 1621, wasn't federally recognized until 2007.

A federal judge in 2016 ruled in favor of the resi-

dents, sending the decision back to the Interior Department for reconsideration.

The tribe halted the casino project, which it had broken ground on in Taunton, a city south of Boston where some of its trust lands were located.

It was dealt a major blow in 2018, when Republican President Donald Trump reversed his Democratic predecessor's decision, a move the tribe is challenging in a separate federal case in D.C.

An effort to restore the tribe's lands through an act of Congress cleared the Democrat-led House last year, but its status remains uncertain in the Republi-

can-controlled Senate.

President Trump has called on Republicans to reject the legislation, dismissing it as a "special-interest casino bill" backed by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic presidential candidate.

Wednesday's court hearing was a largely semantic debate centered on whether the tribe can be considered "Indian" under the 1934 law.

The casino opponents argue the law clearly defines Indians as "all persons who are descendants of such members who were, on June 1, 1934, residing within the present boundaries of any Indian reservation."

But the tribe argues the phrase "such members" makes that definition ambiguous and open to other interpretations, an argument that judges seemed open to considering Wednesday. They asked lawyers for both sides to submit follow up briefs exploring potentially relevant cases.

The tribe also argued in its briefs that it has a long history of maintaining its "tribal identity, community and culture," including celebrating what's considered the first Thanksgiving with Pilgrims.

The casino opponents, in their legal briefs, countered that the tribe's appeal is moot now that the Trump administration has reversed the Obama-era land decision. □



President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, watches.

Associated Press

Parkland dad apologizes for State of the Union outburst

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The father of a student killed in the 2018 Florida high school massacre apologized Wednesday for disrupting President Donald Trump's State of the Union address by shouting as the president said the rights of gun owners are under siege.

Fred Guttenberg was escorted from the gallery by security officers Tuesday night after shouting about

his slain daughter Jaime just after the president said, "So long as I am president, I will always protect your Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms." The audience turned and looked up at the ruckus as he was led out.

"I let my emotions get the best of me," Guttenberg tweeted early Wednesday. "I simply want to be able to deal with the reality of gun violence and not have to

listen to lies" about the Second Amendment.

"That said, I should not have yelled out. I am thankful for the overwhelming support I am receiving. However, I do owe my family and friends an apology. I have tried to conduct myself with dignity throughout this process and I will do better as I pursue gun safety," tweeted Guttenberg, who was a guest of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. □

California pardons gay civil rights leader in new initiative

By **DON THOMPSON**
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— A civil rights leader who was gay and a confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was posthumously pardoned by California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who also announced Wednesday what may be the nation's first process for forgiving those convicted under outdated laws punishing homosexual activity.

Bayard Rustin was a key organizer of the March on Washington in 1963 where King gave his seminal "I Have a Dream" speech. He also helped plan other nonviolent protests and boycotts to end racial discrimination.

Newsom pardoned Rustin for his arrest in 1953 when he was found having sex with two men in a parked car in Pasadena, where he was appearing as part of a lecture tour on anti-colonial struggles in West Africa. Rustin served 50 days in Los Angeles County jail and had to register as a sex of-

fender before returning to his home state of New York. He died in 1987.

Newsom noted that police and prosecutors nationwide at the time used charges like vagrancy, loitering and sodomy to punish lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people.

He issued an executive order creating a new initiative to identify those who might be eligible for pardons and swiftly consider those applications.

Rustin "is far from alone," Newsom said in the order. He encouraged others in similar circumstances "to seek a pardon to right this egregious wrong."

"Countless others in California, as well as around the country, have experienced similar unequal application of the law because of stigma, bias and ignorance," Newsom said. "His conviction is part of a long and reprehensible history of a criminal prohibitions on the very existence of LGBTQ people and their intimate



This Dec. 14, 1970, file photo shows civil rights leader Bayard Rustin at the New York Hilton.

Associated Press

associations and relationships."

Equality Federation executive director Rebecca Isaacs and Movement Advancement Project research director Naomi Goldberg said it appears Newsom's is the first such clemency effort in any state.

"California's new initiative gives them a path to clear their names," Isaacs said in a statement.

Newsom first gained national prominence in 2004 when, as San Francisco's mayor, he ordered officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The practice was overturned then but eventually became the law nationwide. Last month, the California

Legislature's LGBTQ and black caucuses asked the Democratic governor to pardon Rustin.

Rustin's close friends knew he was gay, but his religious and political associates distanced themselves after his arrest, Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Assemblywoman Shirley Weber told Newsom on behalf of the caucuses.

"Generations of LGBT people — including countless gay men — were branded criminals and sex offenders simply because they had consensual sex," Wiener said in a statement praising Newsom's actions. "This was often life-ruining, and many languished on the sex offender registry for decades." □

Prosecutor seeks end to lawsuit over fake subpoenas

By **KEVIN MCGILL**
Associated Press

New Orleans (AP) — New Orleans prosecutors used to issue fake subpoenas to threaten uncooperative witnesses with jail time, and the district attorney there says they can't be sued for the deception — but a panel of appeals judges appeared skeptical Wednesday.

Civil liberties advocates have sued District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro and members of his staff over a practice that ended in 2017. The so-called subpoenas had not been approved by a judge, as required, and thus carried no actual threat of jail time.

Lawyers for the prosecutors asked a federal appeals court Wednesday to throw out the lawsuit, arguing that they are immune from

suits over practices undertaken as part of their "prosecutorial function."

It was unclear when the three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals would rule, but panel members sounded clearly skeptical as W. Raley Alford III, attorney for the prosecutors, made his case.

"Threat of incarceration with no valid premise?" Judge Jennifer Elrod said at one point during arguments. She later drew laughter from some in the audience when she said, "This argument is fascinating."

"These are pretty serious assertions of authority they did not have," said Judge Leslie Southwick, who heard arguments with Elrod and Judge Catharina Haynes.

The lawsuit at issue was

filed in 2017 by the Civil Rights Corps and the American Civil Liberties Union. Last year, a federal judge agreed that prosecutors had immunity from some of its claims. But U.S. District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo allowed much of the suit to continue, saying some of the claims "shock the conscience."

Katherine Chamblee-Ryan, an attorney for the Civil Rights Corps, told the panel that by using documents falsely labeled as subpoenas, Cannizzaro's staffers stepped into a role reserved for judges.

The lawsuit was filed amid public complaints that Cannizzaro's office sometimes sought to jail crime victims who would not cooperate with prosecutions. The lawsuit, in addition to targeting phony subpoe-

nas, challenges aspects of the district attorney's office's use of "material witness" warrants that can lead to the jailing of uncooperative witnesses.

The lead plaintiff said she was jailed after declining to pursue charges against a man who shattered her cellphone during a fight. Cannizzaro's office responded to that part of the complaint by saying the woman was legally incarcerated after avoiding legitimate court-issued subpoenas. Cannizzaro also has said the warrants are rarely used to arrest victims of domestic violence or sexual crimes.

Cannizzaro is nearing the end of his second six-year term as district attorney. He has not said whether he will run for re-election this year. □

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Pope Francis arrives for his weekly general audience in the Pope Paul VI hall, at the Vatican, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.
Associated Press

Pope defrocks founder of another Latin America-based order

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Another founder of a Catholic religious movement has been defrocked for sexual misconduct and abusing his power, the latest in a string of purportedly orthodox, charismatic priests who turned out to be predators.

Pope Francis defrocked the Argentine priest, Roberto Juan Yannuzzi, after a four-year investigation determined he had sex with adults under his authority, absolved them of the sin during confession and otherwise abused his power. The pope's decision was made public this week in a statement by the archbishop of La Plata, Argentina, where Yannuzzi in 1994 founded the Miles Christi community. The name is Latin for "Soldier of Christ." The movement is a religious order of priests, religious brothers, consecrated women and laity with

a presence in Argentina, Italy, Mexico and in the U.S. dioceses of Detroit and San Diego, according to its website.

In a statement, Miles Christi said its members had denounced Yannuzzi's abuse and "irregularities" starting in 2016.

"All the religious and authorities of Miles Christi deeply regret the acts committed by their former superior general and from the outset have accompanied and continue to accompany those who were affected, providing them with all the material and spiritual assistance necessary to cope with this painful situation," the group said in a statement.

Defrocking, or dismissal from the clerical state, is the most severe sanction the Vatican can impose on a priest. It is usually reserved for priests who sexually abuse minors. □



European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi talks to journalists during a news conference at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.
Associated Press

EU focuses on Balkans for enlargement after Brexit

BRUSSELS (AP) — Down one country with the departure of Britain, the European Union's executive proposed a new system for adding members in a move made all the more urgent by French objections to open enlargement talks with two Western Balkan nations.

The European Commission hopes the streamlined rules will avoid further delaying the start of accession negotiations when aspiring members to what is now the 27-country bloc have met the conditions for such talks.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday the proposal was a "good mes-

sage" to North Macedonia and Albania, who were both desperately disappointed when their hopes for the swift commencement of accession negotiations were rebuffed in October.

And perhaps crucially, France acknowledged that the proposal was good, "a significant change, a big step in the right direction." "This is a major element that allows positions to move — not only France's position," said a top official at the French presidency, who asked not to be identified in accordance with Elysee customary practices.

The EU is hoping that a breakthrough for Alba-

nia and North Macedonia can be found in March. The bloc also has a major Western Balkans summit planned for May.

There are worries that if the EU doesn't open its arms, then several countries in the strategically important Balkan region could pivot instead to Russia and China. For a bloc that's just lost the diplomatic and geopolitical clout of Britain, that could be a hard pill to swallow. "EU enlargement is a WIN-WIN situation," von der Leyen said in a tweet.

Enlargement is especially contentious in some capitals in the EU over such issues as corruption and the rule of law. □

Finland plans to give dads equal parental leave as mothers

JARI TANNER

HELSINKI (AP) — Finland's female-dominated government unveiled a plan Wednesday to give both parents the same amount of fully paid parental leave in an effort to push dads in to take time off from work to spend more time with their children.

Social affairs minister Anna-Kaisa Pekonen said paternity leave with full pay in the

Nordic country would be extended to nearly seven months and on a par with what mothers get.

"The reform will be a major change in attitudes, as it will improve equality between parents and make the lives of diverse families easier," Pekonen said in a statement.

Because the parents don't have to take their leaves at the same time, then a

family can maintain its income levels for 14 months, up from the current 11.5 months. Parents can also transfer 69 days from their own quota to the other parent.

In addition, a separate pregnancy allowance would entitle women to a month of paid pregnancy leave before the expected date of birth. A single parent could use the paid

leave allowance quota for both parents.

The social reform is a key-stone measure of the new center-left government led by Prime Minister Sanna Marin. At 34, she is the youngest female prime minister in the world. Her five-party coalition government has gender equality high on its agenda. Twelve of the 19 members of the Cabinet are female, and

all the coalition parties are led by women, four of them aged under 35.

The changes are set to come into force next year at the earliest. The cost of the changes are estimated at 100 million euros (\$110 million).

"The reform will support all kinds of families and ensure equal leaves for children regardless of the form of the family," Pekonen said. □

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Airliner skids, breaks open in Istanbul; 1 dead, 157 injured

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Turkish airliner skidded off a runway, crashed into a ditch and broke apart while landing in bad weather in Istanbul Wednesday, killing one person and injuring dozens more. Passengers had to scramble through the split fuselage to escape. The aircraft, operated by low-cost carrier Pegasus Airlines, was arriving at Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen airport from the western Turkish city of Izmir with 183 passengers and crew on board when it had what the Transportation Ministry described as a "rough landing."

Istanbul Gov. Ali Yerlikaya said the plane failed to "hold onto the runway" and skidded some 50-60 meters (yards) before it dropped into the ditch from a height of about 30 meters (98 feet.)

"We are deeply saddened ... (But) we are very happy that we escaped a greater accident," Yerlikaya said, adding that the plane could have burst into flames.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca reported that one person had died and 157 injured people were taken to multiple hospitals. Three of the injured required surgery and two others were in intensive care, but none of their lives were thought to be in danger, he said.

The airport was shut down after the incident, which occurred at around 6:30 p.m. local time (1530 GMT), and flights were diverted to Istanbul's main airport.

Survivor Dogus Bilgic, 24, told Turkish television channel NTV that he fled the smashed plane by way of a

gap near his seat and was one of the first passengers to get out.

"We traveled (on the runway) for some 20 or 30 seconds, then all of a sudden we flew off the runway," he said while seated in a wheelchair because of a leg injury. "It happened in seconds."

"I was seated in 25C. I believe the plane broke apart at row 26," Bilgic recalled, adding that he threw himself out of the plane when he saw the opening.

"The front (of the plane) was in a terrible state. I saw, after I was on the ground, that it had completely broken apart," he said.

As other passengers emerged from the wreckage, Bilgic said he helped two or three to the ground. "I carried them somewhere because they weren't doing as well as us," he said, then ran away from the plane with others, fearing a possible explosion.

"There was complete chaos," he said.

Video obtained by The Associated Press showed the wreckage of the plane in a field adjacent to the end of the runway. The video shows heavy rain and strong winds at the time, with smoke coming from one of the engines as passengers climb out of the fuselage onto the wings of the plane and away from the crash site.

Eyewitness Hasan Eraydin, who shot the video, said he had been driving home from work when he heard a rumble.

"We were about 30 meters away ... we tried to get to the scene to help, but there was some sort of a canal in



Rescue members and firefighters work after a plane skidded off the runway at Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen Airport, Istanbul, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

Associated Press

between and it was impossible. We thought 'God willing, no one has died'."

Dozens of rescue crew members swarmed around the flood-lit fuselage, including around the cockpit, which had flipped over. The plane was a Boeing 737 that was 11 years old, according to the flight tracking website FlightRadar24.

"We are aware of the media reports and we are gathering more information," Peter Pedraza, a Boeing spokesman, said.

NTV said the injured included the plane's two pilots, who it said were in serious condition. The television channel broadcast a recording of the communications between the pilots and air traffic control in which the pilots are told that previous flights had reported strong tail winds.

"According to the information we have, there was

a rough landing. The accident occurred after (the plane) could not decelerate and rammed into a field from the end of the runway," Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency quoted Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Mehmet Cahit Turan as saying.

Prosecutors opened an investigation of the accident, Anadolu reported.

Pegasus is a privately-owned, low-cost carrier based in Istanbul that flies 97 routes, mostly within Turkey and to destinations in Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. It is majority owned by Turkish billionaire Sevkettin Sabanci and his family, who have big investments in the country in areas as varied as real estate, clothing, health clubs and packaging materials.

The accident comes a month after a Pegasus

plane with 164 people on board skidded off the runway at the same airport in Istanbul. There were no deaths or injuries in that incident on Jan. 7.

In January 2018, another Boeing 737 in the Pegasus fleet slid off a runway at northeastern Turkey's Trabzon Airport and down a dirt embankment. The plane came to rest in the dirt above the Black Sea with its nose pointed toward the water. None of the 168 passengers and crew members were injured.

Planes are designed to absorb impact forces in the bottom of the fuselage to improve the chances that passengers in the cabin above will survive.

In 2013, the tail of an Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 broke off after the jet hit a sea-wall during approach to San Francisco International Airport. □

Iraqi officials say Baghdad wants to minimize reliance on U.S.

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi government has told its military not to seek assistance from the U.S.-led coalition in operations against the Islamic State group, two senior Iraqi military officials said, amid a crisis of mistrust between Washington and Baghdad after an American strike killed a top Iranian general and an Iraqi militia commander.

The step shows that while the Iraqi leadership's demands for an immediate removal of American forces have cooled, they are serious about rethinking the strategic relationship, and this is directly affecting military cooperation.

Officially, Iraqis have been unclear on the status of joint operations. The Iraqi military announced Jan. 30 that they had resumed after a three-week halt, but that statement was later removed and a military spokesperson rescinded the claim in remarks to state television. It was not followed up with a clarification.

The halt had been called amid soaring tensions following the Jan. 3 U.S. drone strike ordered by President Donald Trump that killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and senior Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in Baghdad.

On at least two occasions in January, U.S. officials said they expected the pause would be lifted imminently. But in practice, Iraqis are seeking to minimize coop-



In this Feb. 13, 2018 file photo, an Iraqi army soldier stands guard near a U.S.-made Iraqi Air Force F-16 fighter jet at the Balad Air Base, Iraq.

eration with the anti-IS coalition, based on government orders, two Iraqi military officials and one militia official said this week.

"After the killing of Soleimani, the Iraqi government decided to inform us formally not to cooperate and not to seek assistance from the U.S.-led international coalition in any operation," a senior military intelligence official told The Associated Press.

"Until now, we have not asked the Americans to provide assistance, we rely on our capabilities to pursue IS elements. The presence of the Americans in the joint operations is only formal," the official said.

The three officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. The coalition paused its mission to fight IS in Iraq on Jan. 5 after the strike. That same day, Shiite lawmakers, irate over what they called a flagrant violation of sovereignty, passed a nonbinding resolution requesting the government cancel legal agreements that provide the basis for the U.S. troop presence in Iraq.

Outgoing Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi has stated publicly that U.S. troops must go, but he has stepped back from unilaterally canceling existing

agreements, saying the matter was up to the next prime minister to decide. Prime Minister-designate Mohammed Allawi has not made his policy known toward the troop presence. About 5,200 U.S. soldiers are stationed in Iraqi bases to support local troops fighting IS militants. They are part of a larger international coalition invited by the Iraqi government in 2014. One of the officials, a commander in Iraq's elite U.S.-trained Counter-Terrorism Services in western Anbar province, said some training continues, but "as for military operations and carrying out operations, there is no support."

"We have knowledge that the American support to the Iraqi forces has stopped," said the commander of an Iranian-backed militia group.

No coalition airstrikes have been carried out against IS since the killing of Soleimani, said coalition spokesman Myles Caggins. In contrast, 45 strikes were conducted in Iraq in October and November.

"The Iraqis have not requested assistance with airstrikes in recent weeks, while our operations are paused. All coalition airstrikes have been coordinated with the Iraqi Security Forces for years," he said.

Iraqi military personnel who have benefited from coalition training are making appeals in private, knowing firsthand Iraq's reliance on U.S. military technologies and aircraft.

"We have no alternative now," said the senior CTS official. "The battle against IS is technological, and we don't own any of these technologies, only the Americans do."

U.S. Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top American commander for the Middle East, met Tuesday with Iraqi leaders and acknowledged that joint military operations and training have been scaled back, although he said U.S. special operations forces are doing some missions with Iraqi commandos.

"We're still in a period of turbulence. We've got a ways to go," he said. □

Lebanon's only English-language daily stops print edition

By BASSEM MROUE

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's only English-language newspaper announced on Tuesday that it was temporarily suspending its print edition because of financial challenges as the country passes through its worst economic crisis in decades.

The Daily Star said its website and social media platforms would continue work as usual "to offer first-rate news coverage and content from Lebanon, the

Middle East and beyond." The Daily Star is the latest among several Lebanese newspapers that stopped printing in recent years in a struggle to compete with digital media, a struggle that worsened with Lebanon's economic crisis in the past year.

Days earlier, Radio One, a popular music radio station, went off the air after 37 years as a result of the crisis.

The tiny Mediterranean country is in the midst of a

crippling economic and financial crisis, the worst since the end of Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war. The situation has deteriorated further since Oct. 17, when nationwide protests erupted against the political elite, blamed for decades of corruption and mismanagement.

Some organizations have let go of employees and cut salaries, while others have closed down completely.

The Daily Star said in a

statement that a drop to virtually no advertising revenues in the last quarter of 2019 and January this year "compounded the already dire financial situation that has ravaged Lebanese newspapers with the rise of digital media."

"The Daily Star apologizes to readers of its print edition and remains hopeful that it can ride out this storm," it said, adding that they hope to relaunch the paper version and return to newsstands as soon as pos-

sible.

The paper has been struggling for a while and some employees went on strike in December protesting that they have not been paid for months.

Some local TV stations have been struggling as well, giving employees half their salary.

Last year, the daily Al-Mustaqbal, which was owned by former Prime Minister Saad Hariri's family, ceased its print edition and turned into a digital newspaper. □



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In this Jan. 29, 2019 file photo, Hayo, chief of the Pataxo Ha-ha-hae indigenous community, walks toward the Paraopeba River days after the collapse of a mining company dam, near his village in Brumadinho, Brazil.

Associated Press

Former missionary to lead Brazil's isolated indigenous unit

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's far-right administration named a former evangelical missionary Wednesday to head a department responsible for protecting uncontacted and recently contacted indigenous groups, raising concerns among human rights activists about the threat to tribes' health and culture. The Justice Ministry said Ricardo Lopes Dias is the new coordinator-general for the government unit, which is part of the indigenous affairs agency known as Funai.

In recent interviews with Brazilian media, Dias said he would not seek to evangelize indigenous groups. He told the newspaper O Globo before his nomination was made official that his actions would be purely technical, defended his knowledge of indigenous groups and insisted there is prejudice against him because of his faith.

Activists say that hasn't allayed their concerns, given Dias work in the Amazon

in 1997-2007 as a member of the New Tribes nonprofit group. Currently called Ethnos360, the Florida-based group sends missionaries from local churches around the world, many to indigenous territory.

Dias' nomination comes a week after Funai's chairman changed internal rules so people who don't pass civil service exams can be eligible for the position to which Dias has been appointed. Brazil officially counts 28 groups of isolated indigenous peoples in the Amazon. President Jair Bolsonaro has said that indigenous groups should be integrated into Brazilian society and that their protected lands can pose a threat to development and national sovereignty.

A former Funai president, Marcio Santilli, told The Associated Press that the appointment of Dias was a matter of global concern.

"The risks of contact are of contamination by disease, as often happened in the past," Santilli said. □

Sudan official: Talks with Israel about international status

By **SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's military said Wednesday the motive for agreeing to an initiative to normalize relations with Israel after decades of enmity was to help end the country's status as an international pariah state.

The spokesman for Sudan's armed forces, Brig. Amer Mohammed al-Hassan, said in a news conference that a meeting between the head of Sudan's sovereign council and Israel's prime minister in Uganda on Monday was part of efforts to end Sudan's long-time status as a state supporter of terror.

The goal of the talks between Benjamin Netanyahu and Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, he said, was to help secure Sudan's removal from the United States' list of states that sponsor terror. The designation dates back to the 1990s, when Sudan briefly hosted Osama bin Laden and other wanted militants. The U.S. and Israel are staunch allies.

Sudan was also believed to have served as a pipeline for Iran to supply weapons to Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip. Israel was thought to have been behind airstrikes in Sudan that destroyed a convoy in 2009 and a weapons factory in 2012.

Monday's meeting came just a day after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo invited Burhan to visit the United States in a phone call. The date of the visit has not yet been set.

A senior Sudanese military official said Monday the Sudan-Israel meeting was orchestrated by the United Arab Emirates, a close ally



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listens to Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

of the U.S.

Netanyahu declared Monday on Twitter that Israel and Sudan were working toward normalizing relations. For Israel, it would be a major diplomatic breakthrough.

Burhan was quoted by al-Hassan as saying during a meeting with newspaper editors Wednesday that Sudan is under economic pressure and the country needs "bold decisions that shift Sudan's domestic and foreign policy."

Sudan is led by a military-civilian transitional council established following autocratic president Omar al-Bashir's ouster in a popular uprising that ended his 30-year rule last April. Its interim civilian leaders had said the meeting with Netanyahu caught them by surprise.

Al-Hassan said that in the Monday meeting, the two leaders did not discuss U.S. President Donald Trump's controversial plan for Israel and the Palestinians, unveiled last week.

The government has faced

criticism from civil society leaders for the sudden warming in relations with Israel. Sudan, a Muslim-majority African country, has long said it supports the Palestinian people in their calls for an independent state.

Burhan, Sudan's interim leader, said in a separate statement Tuesday that Sudan backs the Palestinian people's aspirations to have an independent state.

Sudan is a member of the Arab League and joined other members at a meeting in Cairo on Saturday in rejecting Trump's plan for settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The plan, laid out by Trump late last week, heavily favors Israel. Burhan also was quoted as saying that there had been "preparatory talks" about the meeting as early as three months ago, and that the country's top civilian leader, Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, was informed two days prior that the meeting would be taking place. □

Tiny indigenous land highlights Brazil's environmental woes

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Their bodies painted black, dozens of members the Brazil's Guarani Mbya tribe lift their hands and sing a mourning song for hundreds of felled trees beside their village. They weep, chant and perform funeral rites for a lost patch of forest on the edge of Latin America's biggest city.

People in the tribe rushed to the site, at the base of Sao Paulo's Jaraguá Peak, as soon as they heard chain-saws toppling trees on Jan. 30. Some wore feathered headdresses and held arrows in clenched fists. The display alarmed construction company employees, who called the police and sought refuge in a shack nearby.

"Two employees of the company came in December to tell us not to be scared about the chain-saws," tribal leader David Fernandes told The Associated Press. "There's no city here. There's just forest. How can the authorities give a license to build here? There has been no dialogue. It is our right to have a say about what impacts us."

Tree-cutting has been suspended, at least temporarily. But workers still hope to get back to building five high-rise apartment blocks for low-income residents. Sao Paulo's city hall said it had awarded licenses to build there.

They were given by officials



A police officer asks David Karai, a leader within the Guarani Mbya indigenous tribe, for his group to leave the property where real estate developer Tenda cut trees to make way for apartment buildings, next to the indigenous community's land in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

working for Mayor Bruno Covas, a former state environment secretary who is running for reelection this year.

Until the 1950s, the tribe wandered in the Jaraguá region, an area of Atlantic forest. Decades later, the village they settled in was recognized by the Brazil government but also encroached upon by the sprawling metropolis. The tension between a builder with projects in nine Brazilian states and a 40-family indigenous community — the smallest by area in all Brazil at 4.2 acres (1.7 hectares) — is a microcosm of what's playing out elsewhere in the country.

Farther afield, particularly

in Brazil's Amazon, indigenous groups face growing pressure from business interests including loggers, miners, farmers and cattle ranchers. The developers have found a steadfast advocate in President Jair Bolsonaro, who has often said indigenous people and their land cannot be a hindrance to development and national sovereignty. Brazil's president has no say in awarding the constructor the permits to build near Guarani Mbya land. But tribal leaders argue the federal indigenous affairs agency did not consult them on potential impacts, as required by law, which would halt the licensing process. They also said

no one from the agency, known as Funai, supported them after they informed about the construction.

Funai said Tuesday that officials visited the site recently. In a statement the agency said the cutting of trees was suspended for 20 days following an agreement between indigenous leaders and the construction company. It did not comment on whether it had consulted the indigenous residents before tree-felling began.

Sao Paulo's city hall said Tuesday night that construction at the site will be halted for seven days so the indigenous people have more time to provide any evidence that there are

problems with the builder's environmental licenses.

Earlier, builder Tenda said it had carried out all required procedures to begin the housing project and felled only "isolated trees." Following repeated requests from the AP, Tenda didn't make anyone available for an interview.

Tribal leaders are concerned that the roughly 500 trees felled over the past week is just the start, and that more trees will be cut. The indigenous group worries that amount of deforestation could dry up a spring that's important for local fishing.

The Guarani Mbya officially gained claim to their land, an area smaller than two soccer pitches beside Sao Paulo's tallest hill, in 1987. While Tenda isn't building on the indigenous territory, Sao Paulo city councilman Gilberto Natalini says granting permission to build near the tribe and in a forested region still is a "disgrace" and a sign of greed.

"In Brazil, the order now is destroy in order to make money," Natalini said, walking amidst fallen trunks. "It's a very bad moment for our environment."

Bolsonaro has said indigenous people should be integrated into society, and also that they themselves desire modern conveniences. He has likened those living within protected areas to animals trapped in a zoo, angering human rights activists. □

President upsets Mexicans with plan to end long weekends

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has floated a strikingly unpopular proposal to end the practice of creating long weekends by moving national holidays around.

López Obrador is a student of Mexican history, and he was irked because few people appeared to remember that Wednesday is the anniversary of the Feb. 5, 1917 adoption of the country's Constitution. The official holiday was moved to Monday this

year, to allow Mexicans three continuous days off. That is similar to the U.S. practice of celebrating Memorial Day or Washington's birthday on the nearest Monday.

López Obrador said it is a bad practice because it led people to forget what they were celebrating, even though he acknowledged the three-day weekends were popular.

"I know this is going to be controversial, but I believe that, if you don't know where you come from,

you'll never know where you are going," López Obrador said. "For us, history is fundamental, it is life's teacher."

So López Obrador said that by the start of the next school year, in August or September, he will insist that holidays be celebrated on their actual historical date.

That drew waves of disapproval on social media, where Twitter users bemoaned losing their long weekends.

The hashtag #conlospuent-

esno — roughly, "don't mess with long weekends" — became the number one trending topic on Twitter in Mexico. One user posted a photo of a handshake between hands labelled "conservatives" and "progressives," with the saying: "Today there are no divisions, today we are all united, don't mess with long weekends."

Isra Piatrov reflected the feelings of many in Mexico — where many still work a 48-hour week — when he wrote on Twitter that "we

live in a country with some of the longest working hours, where a large number of people spend an hour getting to work, and the long weekends provide a break."

It is not the first time López Obrador's proposals have polarized Mexico. His decision to avoid confrontations with drug cartels, cancel a partly built airport project, build new oil refineries and raffle off the presidential jet have angered many conservatives. □

LOCAL



Seaside dinner at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, at Gilligan's Seafood Shack

Palm Beach – The resort's open-air terrace restaurant at the edge of the Palm Beach boardwalk is open for dinner, nightly. The popular seaside eatery caters to resort guests during the day, and fun, casual diners in the evening hours – just walk in, no reservations required.

The new dinner menu offers a selection of interesting salads and a variety of seafood appetizers followed by fresh fish, beef and chicken entrees, vegetarian offerings, tasty sides and desserts.

You may start your evening's meal with a Lemon Caesar or a Garden Salad, then go on to enjoy Nori Ahi Tuna, Ceviche de Pescado, or Fisherman's Basket for two, all nicely plated and plentiful. Classics, such as Beef Empanadas or Grilled Shrimp conclude the menu's list of crowd-pleasing appetizers.

True to the restaurant's name, the menu highlights a number of fresh seafood preparations, Shrimp Cre-



ole, Grouper & Crab, Shrimp Tacos and Mahi Mahi Fillet. Landlubbers may pick Jerk Prosciutto Chicken or Dijon Skirt Steak, both innovative chef's signature dishes. Those in search of vegetarian options will delight in the Green Garden Penne Pasta and the Vegetable Tart, served with a small garden salad.

Gilligan's Seafood Shack

features two fantastic offers: A Tuesday Shrimp Taco Special for \$19 per person, from 5:30 to 8pm and a Wednesday All You Can Eat, Taste of Aruba, with skewers of Mahi Mahi, Shrimp, Red Snapper, Grouper, Beef, Chicken and Chorizo, a basket of yucca and funchi fries, other tasty sides, and local caramel flan for dessert. The colossal

meal also includes 2 for 1 Chill Draft Beer, all at \$35 per person.

The eatery is named after a legendary sitcom from the 60's, Gilligan's Island, a few years after the resort was originally constructed. The sitcom told the story of seven tourists accidentally stranded on an island, and their failed escapes from it. With a carefree and ca-

sual ambiance matching the delicious food, guests entertain no thoughts of escaping from Gilligan's Seafood Shack. On the contrary, they come back to enjoy desserts such as Chocolate Surprise, or the famed Homemade Cheesecake.

The resort's Executive Chef and the mastermind behind the dinner menu, Matt Boland, is Aruba's esteemed celebrity chef. He is often the Tourism Authority's popular choice to wow attendees at travel shows with food demonstrations and tastings. Famous for his energy, creativity and passion for fresh food concepts, Boland has made Gilligan's Seafood Shack a family favorite, a casual dining destination in a premier location.

Matching the stellar menu, an equally diverse beverage selection to help guests unwind with refreshing cocktails, sparkling, blush, red and white wines, and local beers, while savoring delightful island flavors. □

Distinguished Visitors honored at Divi Phoenix

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki', to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Gerard & Beverly Lyons** from Massachusetts, USA.

This couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round

sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its cleanliness, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them. This couple not only fell in-love with the island, but also brought family, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to Aruba.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Phoenix presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □





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Advocating for Sustainable Aruban Cities and Communities

ORANJESTAD – “We don’t have time to sit on our hands as our planet burns. For young people, climate change is bigger than election or re-election. It is life or death”, Alexandra Ocasio –Cortes. I am sure scrolling down your Facebook news feed last month was so devastating. Reading about all the disasters, sadness, and turmoil people are experiencing around the world. Losing their loved ones, their homes, their communities, and their cities. Bushfires in Australia, flash floods in Indonesia, never recorded high temperatures in Europe, volcano eruptions in the Philippines, and heavy rains in Brazil amongst them. The essence of what US representative Alexandra Ocasio-Cortes is saying is that climate change is not negotiable anymore. The Goal of the Month for February is Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

But why is SDG 11 so relevant and important for us to consider? Well, the United Nations Environment Program (2020) states that “due to their high concentration of people, infrastructure, housing and economic activities, cities are particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters impacts. Building urban resilience is crucial to avoid human, social and economic losses while improving the sustainability of urbanization processes is needed to protect the environment and mitigate disaster risk and climate change”. But, besides the climate challenges, the Sustainable Development Platform of the UN emphasizes the fact that “urgent action is needed to reverse the current situation. With the areas occupied by cities growing faster than their populations, there are profound repercussions for sustainability”.

Interesting update, last week Tuesday, January 28th 2020 Mrs. Marisol Lopez – Tromp was sworn as the new Minister of Spatial Development Infrastructure and Environment of Aruba. Her goal with this new position is to continue the work of the former Minister, Mr. Otmar Oduber, and to promote balanced economic growth and development, while taking into account the environment and biodiversity needs of the island.

Breaking down SDG 11

To get a better understanding on SDG 11 it is important to break it down and explain all relevant indicators. SDG 11 consists out of 7 main indicators, which are: affordable housing, sustainable transport, participatory planning, cultural and natural heritage, disaster reduction, air quality and waste management, and public spaces. Out of these indicators, there are several sub indicators that are also relevant and crucial within this discussion, such as rural-urban planning, mitigation of climate change, basic services, and securing land rights.

1. Affordable Housing

One of the first project on sustainable living was the Smart Community (housing) which was founded in 2014 by a consortium comprising of the Government of Aruba, FCCA, Utilities NV, ELMAR, WEB ARUBA NV, SETAR and TNO Caribbean. According to FCCA, “smart Community Aruba entails the creation of a residential neighborhood in Aruba comprising of 20 houses geared at demonstrating sustainable living principles in a real life Aruban environment. To this extent the neighborhood will serve as a small-scale environment for demonstrating sustainable energy technology specific to the Caribbean’s climatic conditions. Findings and results will lead to public dissemination towards Aruba’s people, businesses and/or education institutions. Moreover, results can inform policy making as to benefit Aruba as a whole”. Without considering the transparency and legitimacy procedures within this project, the essence of this project is highly positive and serves as a great stepping stone moving forward.

Besides this project, the Government of Aruba has a responsibility to continue securing affordable housing opportunities for the Aruban society. If we evaluate the last 10 years, the Government of Aruba provided approximately 934 affordable housing options within the first years (FCCA, 2020). Half way down the last 10 years, this decreased significantly, because they focused on renovated existing housing units. Fortunately, new investments and constructions picked up again in the last years.

2. Sustainable Transport

Sustainability is not only the infrastructure of a country but also consists with how



people in society mobilize themselves. Aruba’s population has grown significantly over the last decades, which has led to an increase of the number of cars. Even though the island has a public transport system, mobility on the island is highly dependent on individuals having a car and households having more than one car. An interesting component of sustainable transport according to the SDGs is that we are “improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons”. Transportation on the island has always been a challenge. While the infrastructure and access to more roads has improved, the mobility concerns are still present.

3. Participatory Planning

Being involved in the sustainable human settlement planning and management remains an important aspect considering the need for collective input in the development factors of Aruba. Aruba has been very busy constructing the National Spatial Planning (ROP) 2019-2029 and have now moved to the stage where the Government of Aruba together with the input of the community and all remaining stakeholder, will define what can and can’t be permissible within each category. Whether it may be housing, protected, and commercial areas, all areas will be structured accordingly (ROPV). The main concern with this, is that we keep our focus on what is better for the entire island. What will in the end be better for the economy,

social well-being of our people, health related ideals of our people, natural heritage protection, and environmental concerns and so much more.

4. Cultural and Natural Heritage

Up to this point Aruba has not been very successful in protecting its cultural heritage, however has made tremendous advancements towards protecting its natural heritage. Since 2000 Aruba has protected one fifth of the island by establishing the Arikok National Park. Between these parameters, all wildlife, flora and fauna are protected and safeguarded. However, besides protecting life on land, Aruba has a lot of life below water in desperate need for attention. This is how the marine protection area (MPA) project initiated. Without analyzing how this went about, we can now say that Aruba will be protecting its natural heritage below water as well through the four marine parks: MPA Arikok, MPA Seroe Colorado, MPA Mangel Halto, MPA Oranjestad. These MPA will be under supervision and care of the Arikok National Park.

5. Disaster reduction

Aruba compared to other remaining Caribbean islands has not experienced as impactful and detrimental disasters over the decades. However, this is not a reason for the island to stay behind. With the challenges that come with small-scale societies, one of the key demands are knowledge, education, and research and development.

Continued on Page 15

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Advocating for Sustainable Aruban Cities and Communities

Continued from Page 14

Aruba is slowly but surely realizing that self-sufficiency is more sustainable in the long run. By having the right policies, strategic plans and access to relevant data, Aruba can reduce the risks that come with geographical and environmental challenges that can't be ignored for much longer.

6. Air quality and waste management

One of the most discussed topics within our community is related to waste management, and the environmental and health concerns that come with it. Aruba has battled year in and year out with this dilemma on figuring out how we are going to mitigate the effects it has and will continue to cause if nothing gets resolved. In short, Aruba has used the "landfill system" for

years and we are now experiencing the harmful effects thereof. Constant dump fires, causing toxic gases to release into the atmosphere, hazardous gases reaching surrounding neighborhoods, contamination of soil and life below water and so on.

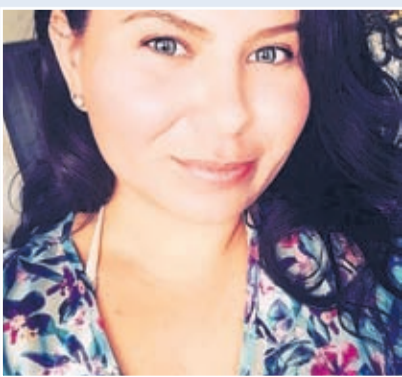
The only step towards stopping this is what we know as the "Serlimar Bill". With its pros and cons discussed within the community, it is the only solution presented thus far by the government. The call goes out to the Government of Aruba and the Parliament of Aruba to stop this and to the community of Aruba to keep persisting for change. Not only for us now, but for the future generations.

Moving Forward

After exploring the SDG 11 indicators, we can

conclude that Aruba is currently at a cross road. Are we going to make the bold and necessary move which will mean sacrificing our own selfish behaviors for the progress and well-being of our communities? Or are we going to continue ignoring the problems we have and are creating?

As a member of the community of Aruba and of the global community, each and every one of us have a responsibility to participate in this dialogue. Politicians, Ministers, Policy advisors, Private sector, Public sector, Academia, NGOs, Advocates, and the Community should realize that it is not an individual fight, but a collective one that will require collaboration. Because we are all contributing one way or the other to the destruction. Let's for once contribute to the resolution. □



Biography - Thaïs G. Franken (24) is a recently graduated Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She obtained her graduate double master of science degree in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA), where she successfully defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development". It was precisely this research project that inspired the emergence of the "Creative Islander" column in 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture, creativity, social entrepreneurship and their role in public management. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Masha Danki



EAGLE BEACH — Aruba Tourism Authority representative, Marouska Heyliger, had the privilege in honoring a group of loyal visitors. What made this group extra special is that they all have been coming to Aru-

ba for over 25 years. They received their distinctive certificate of Goodwill and Emerald Ambassadors.

The honorees are: **Stefanie and Edward Levin** who have been coming to

Aruba for 25 years, **Steven and Rebecca Gidseg** for 28 years, **Randy and Barbara Gidseg** for 30 years, **David and Lauren Gidseg** for 30 years and Emerald Ambassadors **Michael and Jill Gidseg** have been coming to Aruba for 36 years.

Representatives of the Costa Linda Beach Resort were also present at this special ceremony where they celebrated the long-time friendship and loyalty of these lovely visitors. The honorees stated that Aruba is their favorite island for so many reasons, but specially its beautiful beaches, friendly people and great weather.

The Aruba Tourism Authority and Costa Linda Beach Resort would like to say 'Masha Danki' to all of them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination for so many years. □



Aruba Airport: Increased passenger figures for 2019!



ORANJESTAD — As Aruba Airport kicked off 2020 with a successful Super Weekend processing a total of 24,627 passengers in and out of the airport and handled 111 flight movements, Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is also very happy to report an increase in the total number of passengers who have visited Aruba in 2019.

Aruba Airport has experienced a strong increase of 3% totaling to approximately 2.53 million (in and out) passengers, served by 27 airlines, compared to 2018 and now provides service to 32 international airports in 12 countries, and 28 destinations. Below are a few of the developments that have led to the remarkable results of 2019:

American Airlines:

- New La Guardia-Aruba year-round service
- Expands Chicago-Aruba seasonal operation

Delta Air Lines:

- Additional mid-week Boston service in December 2019 and January 2020.

JetBlue:

- Adding additional rotations from New York from 11 to 16 weekly flights from June 2019 to October 2019

Spirit:

- Two additional flights for the summer season and a total of 3 weekly flights from Fort Lauderdale – Aruba during peak weeks

United:

- Expansion of seasonal service to Chicago from 2 weekly to 5 weekly flights

Air Canada:

- Additional 2 mid-week service for the winter season

Avianca:

Initially decided to cut back flights but was turned around after collaborating back to current schedule

Wingo:

Up gauging of twice weekly service to a B737-800 aircraft and will service the destination for a total of 9 out of the 12 months

Aruba Airlines:

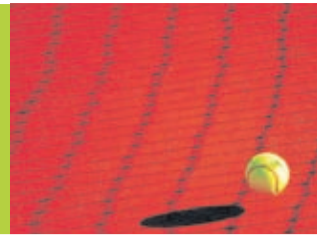
Last December launched new nonstop service from Aruba to Barranquilla and Medellin.

Coming back to Super Weekend 2020 (January 5 & 6, 2020) Aruba Airport processed a total of 24,627 passengers in and out of the airport and handled 111 flight movements. At the screening points over 28,000 pieces of luggage were processed.

The staff has shown the passengers that Aruba Airport can truly provide them with a positive last impression while using the airport facilities. This could only be possible with the dedication and commitment of each of the airport employees working as a team together at the airport.

Aruba Airport thanks the entire airport community for their remarkable efforts in 2019 and congratulates them for the impressive results. 2020 has already shown that the enthusiasm to provide quality service to Aruba's passengers is strong and stable. □

SPORTS



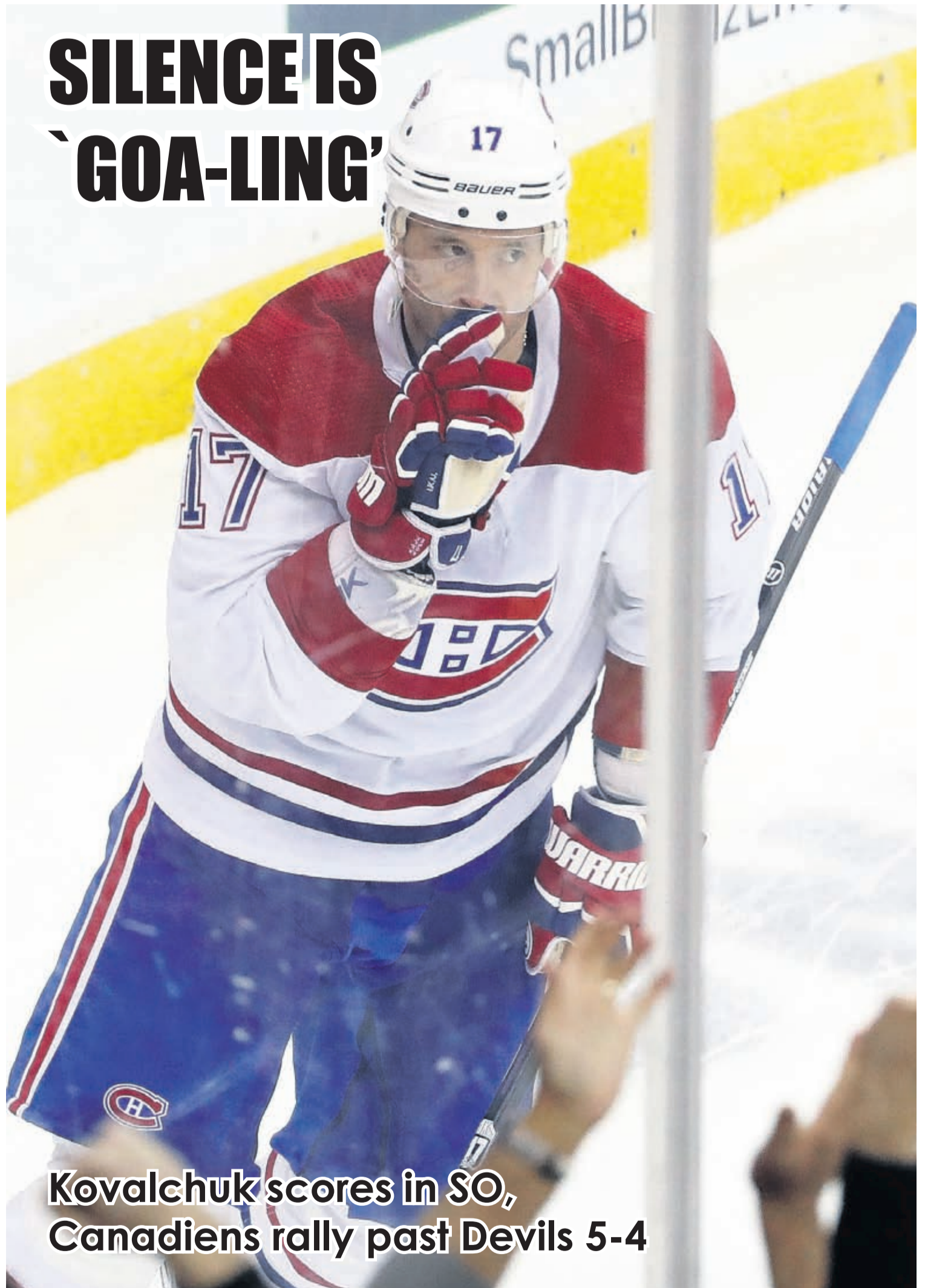
Congress urged to pass anti-doping bill before Olympics

By **BEN NUCKOLS**
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency urged Congress on Wednesday to pass a bill criminalizing international doping conspiracies before this summer's Tokyo Olympics, saying it would be a strong deterrent in the absence of adequate punishment for past Russian doping. USADA CEO Travis Tygart testified before the Senate Commerce Committee. The House has unanimously approved the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act, named for the Moscow lab director who blew the whistle on Russia's state-sponsored doping at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, and the bill — which also includes protections for whistleblowers — has bipartisan support in the Senate. "We all now have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fix the global anti-doping system," Tygart said. "We host the LA Olympic Games in 2028, and we want it real, not rigged." The World Anti-Doping Agency, which receives more funding from the United States than from any other country, is lobbying for extensive changes to the bill. In a letter to the Senate this week, WADA said the bill would "have the unintended consequences of shattering the anti-doping system" if passed without changes.

Continued on page 23

SILENCE IS 'GOA-LING'



Kovalchuk scores in SO, Canadiens rally past Devils 5-4

Montreal Canadiens left wing Ilya Kovalchuk puts his finger to his lips, silencing the boos of New Jersey Devils fans, after scoring in the shootout of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, in Newark, N.J. The Canadiens won 5-4.

Associated Press
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Mickelson looking for momentum after year getting 'crushed'

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— Optimism is never in short supply for Phil Mickelson, and it was especially high when he left the Monterey Peninsula last year with his 44th career PGA Tour victory and his fifth title in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

He had the entire year ahead of him.

It didn't turn out the way he imagined.

"After I won last year, I knew I was going to go out and just crush the rest of the year," Mickelson said Wednesday. "And the rest of the year crushed me."

It wasn't that he failed to win again — no shame in that after turning 49 and competing against an increasingly younger PGA Tour — he only cracked the top 20 one time, at the Masters.

The Presidents Cup, which dates to 1994, was played without him for the first time. And by the end of the year, he was out of the top 50 in the world for the first time in 26 years.

"I didn't play up to my level of expectation, and it just kind of snowballed and got worse," Mickelson said.

He returns to Pebble Beach with his optimism still strong. Mickelson has shied away from a previous guarantee of reaching 50 wins on the PGA Tour. With age comes a dose of reality. But he likes the way he is swinging. He likes the way he is thinking again. And he picked up some momentum from



Phil Mickelson plays his shot from the fifth tee on the Torrey Pines South Course during the first round of The Farmers Insurance golf tournament in San Diego, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

finishing third last week in Saudi Arabia.

It was particularly refreshing because Mickelson had missed the cut in Palm Springs and San Diego, the first time in his long career as a pro he had missed the cut in consecutive events to start the year.

"I was really excited about how I was playing. And then I get on the golf course and I start not seeing what I want to have happen but more what I don't want to have happen," Mickelson said. "My inability to kind of control my thoughts was getting the best of me the first few weeks. And I was able to identify the problem and then fix it and start

to control my thoughts a little bit better, control my visualization, and I hit a lot of good shots thereafter."

For everyone, there will be plenty of good visualization this week, with a forecast of sunshine, although temperatures will remain in the 50s. Players will take sun over a few extra layers for warmth rather than a rain suit.

"When the sun shines, there's no better place on the golfing planet to be," Graeme McDowell said. Three of the more intriguing players in the field all have Saudi connections — Mickelson, McDowell and Dustin Johnson. McDowell won the Saudi International by two shots over Johnson,

with Mickelson in third. All three flew across 12 time zones to take part in a tournament with heritage and beauty.

"The win last week was important at a lot of levels, just to get me back up the rankings, get me back in a couple of the WGC events — which is really important — the major championships, and get me back in the right direction again," McDowell said. "Ticked a lot of boxes and hopefully I can use it as a springboard to kick on for a big year, big season ahead."

McDowell's victory got him back into the top 50 in the world for the first time since 2015. Johnson is a two-time

winner at Pebble Beach who is approaching the one-year anniversary of his last victory, an alarming development given a skill set that leads many players to believe he's still the best in the game.

Also playing is Jordan Spieth, who has been in a spiral since his British Open victory in 2017 to reach the third leg of the career Grand Slam. Spieth fell out of the top 50 for the first time since his rookie year in 2013, and then he missed the cut in the Phoenix Open last week.

He has kept a low profile this week, although he is busy as an AT&T ambassador and he received "The Arnie Award" for his charitable work, given to people who best emulate Palmer's attributes.

On the course, it's time for Spieth to hitch up his pants and go.

As for Mickelson, he is playing his fourth straight week — three in California, one in Saudi Arabia. And he again is looking forward while hopeful for better results.

"This is a different year and I've had a great offseason and a lot of good things have happened in the last three, four months and I'm very excited for the year," Mickelson said. "I know that the first two weeks didn't go as planned, but the rest of the year is going to be very good."

He hopes to crush it, not the other way around. □

Supercars champ McLaughlin gets IndyCar seat with Penske



Acura Team Penske owner Roger Penske gestures to a crew member during the Rolex 24 hour auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

MOORESVILLE, N.C. (AP)

— Team Penske will give Supercars champion Scott McLaughlin a shot at IndyCar with a seat in the road course race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in May. McLaughlin will also participate in next week's pre-season testing at Circuit of the Americas in Texas for Team Penske in the No. 2 Dallara/Chevrolet. The two-time and defending champion of the Australian series last month tested for Penske at Sebring with Penske teammates on hand to

offer assistance.

"This is an amazing opportunity, to race against some of the best open wheel drivers in the world on one of the most historic tracks in motorsports," said McLaughlin. "It's a driver's dream to get a chance to race an Indy car for Team Penske." McLaughlin has won 35 races and 44 poles over the last three seasons while helping Penske win the team championships in 2017 and 2019. He won the driver's title in each of the last two seasons.

McLaughlin also earned his first win in the Bathurst 1000 race in October, with co-driver Alex Premat. McLaughlin last season set the single-season Supercars record with 18 victories, along with a series-leading 15 poles and 22 podium finishes. "We believe his talent and his drive will continue to shine behind the wheel of an Indy car," said Roger Penske. "It will be interesting to see how he continues to develop as we work up to his first race at the Indianapolis Grand Prix." □

LeBron scores 36 with 3-point outburst, Lakers rout Spurs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James scored 19 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter while hitting five 3-pointers in an incredible three-minute span, propelling the Los Angeles Lakers to a 129-102 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night.

James added nine assists and seven rebounds, and he hit five of his six 3s in that decisive barrage. Anthony Davis and Kyle Kuzma had 18 points apiece as the Lakers beat San Antonio for the third time this season, sweeping the season series. Kuzma, the subject of numerous trade rumors with the deadline approaching, added 12 rebounds in one of his most impressive recent performances.

DeMar DeRozan had 28 points, nine rebounds and seven assists in his hometown for the Spurs, who have lost five of seven.

NUGGETS 127, TRAIL BLAZERS 99

DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic finished an assist shy of a triple-double in just three quarters, and Gary Harris helped keep hot-shooting Damian Lillard in check as Denver routed Portland.

Jokic had 29 points and 13 rebounds as the Nuggets improved to 8-0 against Northwest Division rivals this season. They held Lillard to 21 points, ending his string of eight straight games with at least 30. Lillard was 8 of 23 from the floor, predominantly with Harris and Torrey Craig taking turns shadowing him.

Denver led by 34 in the third, and Jokic was given the final quarter off. The short-handed Nuggets were without Paul Millsap (bruised left knee), Mason Plumlee (right foot) and Michael Porter Jr. (right ankle). Jamal Murray returned to the lineup after missing 10 games with a sprained left ankle. He finished with 20 points.

BUCKS 120, PELICANS 108

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 17 rebounds in Milwaukee's victory over

New Orleans. Khris Middleton scored 20 for the Bucks, who led by 19 in the third quarter before holding off a Pelicans rally in the fourth. Brandon Ingram scored 32 points and Zion Williamson had 20 for the Pelicans, who briefly got as close as seven twice in the fourth period before the Bucks stemmed the tide and improved to 20-4 away from home this season.

Williamson was 5-of-19 shooting and New Orleans was minus-11 with its rookie sensation on the court.

ROCKETS 125, HORNETS 110

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden had 40 points and 11 assists, and the short-handed Houston Rockets

overcame an early deficit to defeat Charlotte.

Houston won its third straight, handing Charlotte its fourth consecutive loss and 12th in 13 games.

Harden finished a rebound shy of a triple-double after also scoring 40 points but falling one assist short of a triple-double in Houston's last game. He's scored at least 35 points in his past three games after struggling through a shooting slump over his previous four. The Rockets played without starters Clint Capela and Russell Westbrook, who sat out with injuries. The Hornets led early in the fourth quarter before Houston used a 15-2 run to take control. □



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, center, shoots as San Antonio Spurs guard Derrick White, left, and guard Patty Mills defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 129-102.

Associated Press

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Pete Rose asks for reinstatement, cites Astros and steroids

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Pete Rose again asked Major League Baseball to end his lifetime ban, saying the penalty is unfair compared with discipline for steroids use and electronic sign stealing.

Rose's lawyers submitted the application Wednesday to baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, who in December 2015 denied the previous request by the career hits leader.

"The time has come to recognize that Mr. Rose's penalty has become grossly disproportionate relative to Major League Baseball's treatment of severe wrongdoing by ownership, management and players," the petition said.

Rose agreed to the lifetime ban in August 1989 after an investigation for MLB by lawyer John Dowd found that Rose placed numerous bets on the Cincinnati



In this June 17, 2017, file photo, former Cincinnati Reds player Pete Rose attends a news conference during his statue dedication ceremonies before a baseball game between the Reds and the Los Angeles Dodgers in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

Reds to win from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team.

"There has never been any allegation that Mr. Rose's misconduct was intended to gain a competitive advantage over other teams," stated the petition, which was first reported by ESPN.

"When it comes to subsequent violations of Major League Baseball rules — namely steroid use and electronic sign stealing —

this is clearly not the case. They have intentionally and dramatically affected the results of plays and games, including the outcomes of two consecutive World Series. These acts manifestly and deliberately violate the spirit and letter of the rules."

Rose, who turns 79 in April, asked to meet with Manfred, who in his 2015 denial wrote that the 17-time All-Star had "not presented

credible evidence of a re-configured life either by an honest acceptance by him of his wrongdoing, so clearly established in the Dowd Report, or by a rigorous, self-aware and sustained program of avoidance by him of all the circumstances that led to his permanent ineligibility."

Rose cited the joint drug agreement between MLB and the players' association, which calls for 80-game suspensions for first offenders for performance-enhancing drugs, 162-game bans for second offenders and lifetime bans for thirds penalties with a chance for reinstatement. Manfred reinstated reliever Jenry Mejia, the only player disciplined three times for PEDs under the major league drug program.

Rose also referenced Manfred's decision on Jan. 13 to suspend Houston manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow for one

season for their role in the Astros' use of electronics to steal catchers' signs in 2017 and 2018 but to not discipline players.

"Proportionality has long been the governing norm when Major League Baseball commissioners have assessed discipline," the petition said. "That guiding principle has not changed, but Major League Baseball's reactions to potential threats to the integrity of the game have greatly evolved since Mr. Rose's conduct resulted in a lifetime ban from the game in 1989, and more particularly since his 2015 petition for reinstatement."

Rose also asked baseball's Hall of Fame to remove the prohibition adopted by the Hall's board of directors in 1991 to prohibit players on the permanently ineligible list from appearing on the Hall ballot of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. □

Ovechkin near 700 after 27th hat trick; Caps beat Kings 4-2

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alex Ovechkin recorded his 27th career hat trick and raised his career goal total to 698 during a five-minute stretch of the third period, rallying the Washington Capitals to a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday night.

Ovechkin, who is closing in on becoming the eighth player in NHL history to reach the 700-goal plateau, moved into the NHL lead with 40 on the season. He singlehandedly overturned a 2-1 deficit inside the final 6:10 of regulation. He has 14 of those 40 goals in his last seven games.

Ovechkin one-timed a feed from T.J. Oshie to tie the game at 2-all. Seventy seconds later, he rebounded his own miss off goaltender Jonathan Quick's pads and put Washington in front.

He added an empty-netter with 1:46 to play, moving within 10 goals of Mike Gartner for seventh on the NHL's all-time goals list.

John Carlson added his 14th goal and 50th and 51st assists for Washington, which rebounded after opening a four-game homestand with a loss to Pittsburgh. Braden Holtby made 29 saves in the win.

Jeff Carter scored his 15th and 16th goals for the Kings.

BLUE JACKETS 1, PANTHERS 0

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Zach Werenski scored 1:54 into overtime and Columbus extended its points streak to nine games with a win over Florida.

Werenski picked up the puck off the right boards, circled around to the bottom of the circle and beat former teammate Sergei Bobrovski, who had made 45 saves to that point.

Both teams had some good looks, especially late in the game, but both goalies were outstanding.

Elvis Merzlikins had 32 saves in picking up his fourth shutout of the season. Columbus has won eight of nine and hasn't lost in regulation since Jan. 9, a streak of 8-0-1.

LIGHTNING 4, GOLDEN

KNIGHTS 2

TAMPA, Fla. — Steven Stamkos tipped in his 24th goal of the season in the third period and led Tampa Bay Lightning over Vegas.

Andrei Vasilevskiy made 28 saves and extended his streak of consecutive games without a regulation loss to 16 games, matching the franchise record set by Nikolai Khabibulin in 2002-03.

Brayden Point and Anthony Cirelli also scored, and Nikita Kucherov had two assists as Tampa Bay won its seventh consecutive home game. Alex Killorn added an empty net goal with 44.7 seconds remaining.

Paul Stastny and William Carrier scored for Vegas, which lost for just the second time in regulation in six games under new head coach Peter DeBoer. Marc-Andre Fleury finished with 13 saves.

AVALANCHE 6, SABRES 1

BUFFALO — Andre Burakovsky had a goal and three assists for a career-best four points in Colorado's rout of spiraling Buffalo.

Samuel Girard sparked the rout with the opening goal in a game the Avalanche scored six times on their first 14 shots.

Valeri Nichushkin had a goal and two assists, while Nikita Zadorov, Nazem Kadri and Mikko Rantanen also scored. Burakovsky's goal was his 17th to match a career high, and he extended his point streak to five games.

Philipp Grubauer stopped 23 shots in helping Colorado improve to 4-1-2 in its past seven.

Buffalo's Sam Reinhart deflected in Jake McCabe's point shot in the final second of the first period.

BRUINS 4, CANUCKS 0

BOSTON — Charlie Coyle had a goal and an assist, Tuukka Rask stopped 25 shots for his third shutout this season and Boston extended its winning streak to four games.

Brad Marchand, David Krejci and Karson Kuhlman also scored. Charlie McAvoy had two assists as Boston won for the fifth time in



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin celebrates his goal during the third period of the team's NHL hockey game against the Los Angeles Kings, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, in Washington. The Capitals won 4-2.

Associated Press

six games.

Jacob Markstrom made 38 saves for Vancouver.

The Canucks lost in regulation for the first time since Jan. 14, when they were shut out at Winnipeg 4-0. Vancouver had surged since then, winning five consecutive before a 4-3 shootout loss at Carolina on Sunday.

DUCKS 3, SENATORS 2, SO

OTTAWA, Ontario — Rickard Rakell scored the shootout winner and Anaheim beat Ottawa.

Nick Ritchie and Ondrej Kase scored in regulation for Anaheim, which has won four of its last five.

John Gibson made 30 saves as the Ducks improved to 2-0-0 on their five-game road that started with a 3-1 win in Los Angeles against the Kings.

Drake Batherson and Artem Anisimov scored for Ottawa. Marcus Hogberg stopped 26 shots.

BLUES 6, HURRICANES 3

ST. LOUIS — Brayden Schenn had two goals and an assist, Zach Sanford scored twice and St. Louis

beat Carolina.

It was Schenn's first three-point game since Feb. 19, 2019, against Columbus, a stretch of 79 games. Jordan Binnington stopped 25 shots, and Colton Parayko and Sammy Blais also scored.

The reigning Stanley Cup champion Blues were 1-4-1 in their previous six games but hadn't played at home in nearly three weeks due partly to a bye week and the All-Star break.

St. Louis improved to 10-0-1 in its last 11 games at home. The Hurricanes fell to 0-5-0 over their last five games away from home.

Carolina's Petr Mrazek looked rusty in just his third start since Jan. 13, allowing six goals on 26 shots. Sebastian Aho, Brock McGinn and Martin Necas scored for the Hurricanes.

WILD 3, BLACKHAWKS 2, OT

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Matt Dumba scored with 2:39 remaining in overtime to lift Minnesota past Chicago. Kevin Fiala scored twice for Minnesota and Alex Stalock made 27 saves. Dumba

snapped a 33-game goal-scoring drought with his fourth of the season as the Wild won for the second time in three games.

Adam Boqvist and Olli Maatta scored in the third period for Chicago. Corey Crawford made 31 saves for the Blackhawks, who had won six of their previous seven games.

PREDATORS 2, JETS 1, OT
WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Mikael Granlund scored 1:11 into overtime, lifting Nashville past Winnipeg.

Granlund's blast went high past goalie Connor Hellebuyck and gave the Predators their third win in the last four games.

Nick Bonino also scored for Nashville, which is 4-2-0 in its past six games.

Juuse Saros made 33 saves for the Predators, who were beginning a four-game trip. Mason Appleton scored for the Jets, who have one win in their last eight games (1-6-1).

Hellebuyck stopped 34 shots for Winnipeg, which ended a three-game homestand 1-1-1. □



AP sources: Red Sox agree to trade Betts, Price to Dodgers

By **JIMMY GOLEN**

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Banking on Mookie Betts to be the missing piece in their World Series pursuit, the Los Angeles Dodgers finally pulled off a blockbuster deal with the cost-cutting Red Sox.

Boston agreed to trade the 2018 AL MVP to the Dodgers on Tuesday night, according to two people with knowledge of the deal, packaging Betts with left-hander David Price in a salary dump designed to save the Red Sox tens of millions of dollars and help them dip below baseball's luxury tax threshold.

The Dodgers, eager for a World Series title after losing in the 2017 and '18 Fall Classics, are sending outfielder Alex Verdugo back to the Red Sox. The deal also involves the Minnesota Twins, who are getting right-hander Kenta Maeda from the Dodgers and sending pitching prospect Brusdar Graterol to Boston. Los Angeles will also get cash from Boston to offset some of the \$123 million owed to Betts and Price, but the exact amount was not yet known.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade, pending the exchange of medical information, had not been announced.



In this Aug. 10, 2019, file photo, Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts hits an RBI-double during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Boston.

Associated Press

Betts, who will earn \$27 million this season, has spurned nine-figure offers from the Red Sox for a long-term deal and expressed eagerness to test the free agent market. Boston decided to move him now — a century after selling Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees — rather than let the four-time All-Star walk after the 2020 season.

One of baseball's best all-around talents, the popular Betts should fit nicely into a Dodgers lineup that also includes reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger. Los Angeles has won seven straight

NL West titles but hasn't celebrated a World Series championship since 1988. They fell in 2018 against Betts and the Red Sox, a year after being defeated by the Houston Astros in seven games.

Price is due \$96 million over the final three years of a \$217 million, seven-year deal he signed before the 2016 season. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner missed time last year with a wrist issue and went 7-5 with a 4.28 ERA in 22 starts. The Dodgers finally pulled off the kind of splashy offseason deal that has elud-

ed them in recent years. They lost out on two primary offseason pursuits when pitcher Gerrit Cole signed with the New York Yankees for \$324 million over nine years and third baseman Anthony Rendon signed a \$245 million, seven-year contract with the rival Angels.

Until now, the Dodgers' top addition this winter was reliever Blake Treinen.

Adding Betts' bat to a lineup that includes Bellinger, Justin Turner, Max Muncy and Corey Seager makes the Dodgers even more fearsome. Their offense led

the National League with 886 runs and 279 home runs last year.

Verdugo, a left-handed hitter, batted .294 with 44 RBIs and 12 home runs in 106 games before a back injury in August ended his season early. His outfield defense is average, but at 23 he has time to improve.

Betts' departure deepens the disappointment in Boston, where the New England Patriots sat out the Super Bowl for the first time in four years and face the prospect of quarterback Tom Brady leaving as a free agent. The Red Sox are now without the best player, the top executive and the manager who led them to a franchise-record 108 wins and the World Series championship a year ago.

The deal makes sense only in the complicated economics of baseball's collective bargaining tax, which penalizes a team for spending over a preset limit — \$208 million for 2020. What's more, a ballclub that surpasses the threshold in three straight years pays a top rate of 95%; on the other hand, if a team goes under the limit for a season, the penalty for their next violation resets to the lowest rate of 20%.

This deal is expected to get Boston below that threshold. □



In this Sept. 11, 2019, file photo, Atlanta Braves' Shane Greene throws during a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The Atlanta Braves defeated Shane Greene in the first salary arbitration case this year, and the reliever will be

paid \$6.25 million instead of his request for \$6.75 million.

Arbitrators Gary Kendall, Brian Keller and Al-

Braves beat Shane Greene in salary arbitration

len Ponak made the decision Wednesday, a day after hearing arguments. A 31-year-old right-hander, Greene was a first-time All-Star last year, when he made \$4 million.

Minnesota Twins right-hander, eligible for arbitration for the first time, asked for a raise from \$620,000 to \$4.4 million in the second hearing of the year. Minnesota offered \$4,025,000. The case was heard Wednesday by Frederic Horowitz, Andrew Strongin and Margaret Brogan.

Greene had a 2.30 ERA in 65 relief appearances with 64 strikeouts and 17 walks in 62 2/3 innings for Detroit and Atlanta, which acquired him at the July 31 trade deadline. He had a 4.01 ERA in 27 games for the Braves and allowed a tying eighth-inning single to Yadier Molina in Game 4 of the NL Division Series against St. Louis, which rallied to win in 10 innings. The Cardinals won Game 5, then were swept by Washington in the NL Championship Series.

Greene is eligible for free agency after this season.

Berrios, a 25-year-old right-hander, was 14-8 with a 3.68 ERA in 32 starts last year for the AL Central champions, striking out 195 and walking 51. He started the Division Series opener against the New York Yankees and did not get a decision, allowing three runs — one earned — in four innings.

Sixteen players remain scheduled for hearings, which run through Feb. 21. □

Welcome back: Berry returns to Browns as NFL's youngest GM

By **TOM WITHERS**
AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — As Andrew Berry waited to be welcomed back as Cleveland's new general manager, his baby son, Kairo, let out a couple of cranky cries before settling down for a nap.

Later, his 2-year-old son, Zion, asked Berry if he could wear a helmet.

The Browns have turned to youth in their front office. Maybe this will work.

At just 32, Berry is believed to be the youngest GM in NFL history and he's returned to Cleveland after one season in Philadelphia to encounter some familiar problems with the Browns, who remain unstable, underachieving despite a talented roster and without a playoff appearance since 2002.

Berry said he returned to the team in part for a chance to work with new coach Kevin Stefanski, who was hired last month after 13 seasons in Minnesota. Stefanski's only 37, giving Cleveland a fresh, young duo of decision-makers the Browns hope can grow and thrive together for years.

"I am much older than An-

drew," Stefanski quipped, adding he missed his own kids after seeing Berry's.

Berry joked he didn't receive an upgraded parking space upon his return to Cleveland, where he was vice president of player personnel from 2016-18 under GM Sashi Brown. During that span, the Browns went 1-15, 0-16 and only made minimal improvement because of some poor drafts. The team was often accused of "tanking" to get high draft picks and they used the No. 1 overall selections in 2017 and 2018 on star defensive end Myles Garrett and quarterback Baker Mayfield, respectively.

Berry isn't hiding from his role in not making the Browns much better, but he's determined to get things right this time around.

"That stretch is a very painful period for our fans, for the city and for everybody internally in the organization," he said. "I can assure you that all of us that were there during that time period were equally disappointed with the results during that time. Now, the one thing I can say is that the team and the organization



Cleveland Browns general manager Andrew Berry, right, poses for a photo with head coach Kevin Stefanski after speaking during a news conference at the NFL football team's training facility, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, in Berea, Ohio.

Associated Press

is at a much different state than it was heading into that 2016 season, whether it was the foundation of the roster or the overall strategy.

"There is no secret that the strategy at the time was to accumulate assets, whether it was cap space, picks and players, that would lead to a foundation of long-term success, but I can assure you that win-

ning is at the forefront of everyone's minds in the organization."

Berry is just the second current African-American GM in the NFL, joining Miami's Chris Grier. He's proud to follow in the footsteps of black executives like Ozzie Newsome. Berry's sensitive to the league's poor track record with minority hiring, and remains hopeful others will get the same opportu-

nity he's been given by the Browns.

"Part of this is exposure," said Berry, who was joined at the news conference by his wife, Brittan, his parents and brother. "There are tons of talented executives across the NFL that fit different demographic profiles, whether it is age or race or quite honestly even for gender at this point in time. □

Continued from page 17

The bill would allow U.S. prosecutors to go after doping schemes at international events in which Americans are involved as athletes, sponsors or broadcasters. WADA has concerns about the "extraterritorial" jurisdiction the bill proposes. Many U.S. corruption laws, including those used to prosecute FIFA executives in the soccer-bidding scandal, also allow charges for crimes committed overseas.

"Currently, there are elements of the Act that could backfire and be counterproductive for the protection of clean sport around the world," WADA director general Olivier Niggli said Tuesday.

Asked after the hearing whether he felt greater urgency to pass the bill before the Olympics, which begin in July, Sen. Roger Wicker, a Mississippi Re-

publican and the committee chairman, said, "I think so."

Tygart said the bill is consistent with WADA's anti-doping regulations and that WADA's opposition shows the organization's conflicts of interest.

"It's clear that the (International Olympic Committee) runs WADA and they've turned into a shameless political organization, using misinformation and scare tactics," Tygart said. "The IOC is scared because of the level of corruption that's been exposed."

Tygart and USADA, along with anti-doping agencies from dozens of other countries, have argued for a fully independent WADA that does not include officials who benefit financially from the sports they are supposed to be policing. Tygart also criticized WADA for its actions in the



U.S. Anti-Doping Agency Chief Executive Officer Travis Tygart, right, sitting with U.S. Center for SafeSport Chief Executive Officer U'Riese Colón, left, and National Athletic Trainers' Association President Tory Lindley, center, listen during a Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

Associated Press

long-running Russia case. Russian athletes were allowed to compete at the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics under a neutral flag, and WADA has issued the same sanction on Russia for Tokyo — disappointing some anti-doping ad-

vocates who called for a blanket ban on all Russian competitors.

Russia has appealed the new sanctions to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The U.S. government provides about \$2.5 million annually to WADA, and Tygart

said drug-free athletes are owed an explanation on why the Russia case has taken years to resolve and why WADA is using taxpayer money to lobby against reforms.

"I would urge you to have another hearing and bring in the president of the IOC, bring in the president of WADA and ask the tough questions about why this is taking so long," Tygart said. WADA said in a statement that Tygart's claims about its failure to respond quickly to the Russian doping scandal were "simply untrue," and the agency noted it had not been invited to participate in Wednesday's hearing.

"Since WADA's first investigation into the matter, and at every point since, the agency moved decisively to bring the guilty parties to justice in accordance with due process," the statement said. □

In fight to survive, U.S. dairy farmers look for any tech edge

By IVAN MORENO

PICKETT, Wis. (AP) — At Rosendale Dairy, each of the 9,000 cows has a microchip implanted in an ear that workers can scan with smartphones for up-to-the-minute information on how the animal is doing — everything from their nutrition to their health history to their productivity. Feed is calibrated to deliver a precise diet and machines handle the milking. In the fields, drones gather data that helps bump up yields for the row crops grown to feed the animals.



In this Dec. 4, 2019, photo cows are milked on a large carousel at the Rosendale Dairy in Pickett, Wis.

Associated Press

Technology has played an important role in agriculture for years but it's become a life and death matter at dairy farms these days, as low milk prices have ratcheted up pressure on farmers to seek every possible efficiency to avoid joining the thousands of operations that have failed.

"If I use 100 bags of seed on a field and I change the way I distribute the seed, I can yield more without a single extra dollar of input," said Matt Wichman, Rosendale's director of agronomy. Such tools "are becoming so economically viable that anybody that's of a decent scale is adopting these," Wichman said.

Technology can mean survival, but it involves a perilous gamble: Will the machines produce savings fast enough to cover the debt they incur?

"The last five years have really been treacherous," said Randy Hallett, who has 85 cows in Casco, Wisconsin, and has spent \$33,000 on new milking equipment. He would invest more if his operation could afford it. "I broke even, mostly."

The dairy industry is caught in a vise between consumer trends and competition. Americans are buying less milk as changing tastes steer them to milk substitutes from soy and almonds, or to entirely differ-

ent drinks like flavored water. Two big milk processors, Dean Foods and Borden Dairy Co., filed for bankruptcy protection in the past three months, undone by declining demand and also pressured by big competitors like Walmart, which opened its own milk processing plant in 2018. And then there are milk prices.

analysis at the University of Wisconsin.

Prices fell to \$17.30 by the following year, and for producers, it's been mostly misery ever since. Nationwide, the number of dairy farms dropped from 40,199 in 2017 to 37,468 in 2018. In Wisconsin, a state that takes pride in its image as "America's Dairyland," the toll has been particu-



In this Dec. 4, 2019, photo herd specialist Chema Ortiz looks at stats of a cow on his phone app at Rosendale Dairy in Pickett, Wis.

Associated Press

After hitting a historic high in 2014 of more than \$26 per 100 pounds on the strength of massive buying from China, the bottom fell out. When China stopped its milk-buying spree, there was already oversupply from both American and European Union producers, said Mark Stephenson, director of dairy policy

lar severe. Though California produces more milk, Wisconsin has more dairy farms than any other state. And more than 1,600 of those have gone under in the past three years.

But there are reasons to believe the worst might be over, said Jim Ostrom, a partner at Milk Source, the company that owns

Rosendale. In November, milk prices in Wisconsin rose to \$22.40. Nationwide, they reached \$21, finally above the \$18 price point that Stephenson cited as a general benchmark for producers turning a profit.

With dairy prices outside farmers' control, they have to focus on controlling costs. That's where technology comes in. A rotary milking parlor can handle 10 cows a minute and can sense when an udder is empty so cows aren't overmilked, which can harm their health. But a robotic milking system can run more than \$200,000.

"It can be very difficult for a smaller farm to afford this technology because you need, you know, a larger operation to spread those expenses across," said Liz Binversie, an agriculture educator in Brown County for the University of Wisconsin extension office. She said she knows of one farm that went out of business because it couldn't find enough workers and could not afford a robotic milking system.

Wisconsin leads the nation in farm bankruptcies with 45 Chapter 12 filings from July 2018 through June 2019, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. Minnesota was not far behind with 31 during that time.

Because of debt, the cost of producing milk varies among farms. While some farmers can break even at a price of \$18 per hundred pounds, others need \$21 because of their debt load. Sometimes the way to survive is to join forces with neighbors.

Hallett shares some advanced machinery with a neighboring farmer, like a combine and planting equipment. And, fortunately, some technology isn't expensive. Hallett's cows carry the same microchips as Rosendale uses, so he can know from the comfort of his office the milk weight for each cow and whether a particular cow had less milk that day. The chips cost about 12 cents per month per cow. □

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What for W-4? Why you should care about the new tax form

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP Personal Finance Writer

If you are starting a new job this year, or just want to update your tax information with your employer, some of the paperwork is going to look different. A lot different.

The IRS has introduced a new Form W-4 that must be used by all employers in 2020 to better accommodate recent changes to the tax law.

The overhaul of the form is the biggest in decades and makes a once quick exercise a bit more involved. In return, according to the IRS, it will yield more accurate results. That is particularly important as the new tax law led to surprises for some folks last year, due in part to improper withholdings.

So the new form is worth a look, regardless of how long you have been on the job. The more accurate your W-4, the more accurate your withholdings are. Withhold too little and you'll owe money at tax time and possibly face a penalty. Withhold too much and you may be due a refund — which means you missed out on that money all year. Ideally you should break even.

Here's what you should know:

WHAT'S DIFFERENT

Say goodbye to allowances, the backbone of the old W-4.

Employees used to answer a series of questions to arrive at a number of "allowances." The allowances were based on personal exemptions — essentially how much income was exempt from tax based on how many people were dependent on the employee. But the new tax law did away with personal exemptions, so the IRS had to change its approach.

The form now collects information about all the income in an employee's household, as well as dependents, to calculate how much to withhold.

THE DETAILS

The form is five steps long. Steps 1 and 5 are mandatory — fill out your personal

This Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 photo shows the W-4 form in New York. The IRS has introduced a new Form W-4 that must be used by all employers in 2020 to better accommodate recent changes to the tax law.

information and sign the form. For some people, that will be it. The other steps are optional but can help a taxpayer get more accurate results, says Alice Jacobsohn, senior manager of government relations for the American Payroll Association.

Step 2 asks employees to provide information about all the income in their household if there are multiple jobs. This applies if the employee has more than one job or if both spouses work and file taxes jointly. Employees can use an online calculator or worksheet to arrive at the correct amount, or they can simply check a box if the pay at both jobs is roughly equal. Payroll company ADP warns of a potential misstep here: if you have two jobs or are in a two-earner household and check this box — do so on the W-4s for both jobs. But only complete steps 3 and 4 on one W-4 to ensure the proper amount is withheld.

If an employee does not

want to disclose that they have a second job or share their spouse's income information, there are workarounds. The easiest is to use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator at www.irs.gov/W4app to determine how much your household needs to withhold and enter that total lower on the form.

Step 3 is for claiming any dependents, which are generally consider those who are under age 17 and living with you more than half the year. You'll need to complete an additional worksheet if you have other types of dependents to claim.

And Step 4 is where you can make any adjustments for other income, deductions or optional withholdings. This includes reporting other forms of income such as dividends or withdrawals from retirement accounts. There is also an option to enter a set amount of additional money to be withheld, including those who simply want to ensure they

have a large refund.

"While the updated form may initially elicit some confusion for employees, these important changes will ultimately simplify the ability to set and adjust withholdings to achieve desired results," said Pete Isberg, vice president for government affairs at ADP.

WHO NEEDS IT

Not everyone needs to fill out the new form.

In general, only new hires are asked to fill out a W-4. But anyone who wants to update their information with their employer will need to use it and experts say many of us should.

Ideally, people update their tax withholding information after major life events, such as marriage, divorce or the birth of a child. Additionally, anyone who was unhappy with their results at tax filing time last year should consider updating their paperwork.

A number of people were surprised to see a smaller refund, no refund, or to discover they owed money to the IRS at tax time. In part, this was because of inaccurate withholdings. After the law was passed, the IRS updated its withholding tables and urged taxpayers to update their W-4s as needed, but few did.

Employees who are happy with the amount of taxes withheld from their paycheck do not have to do anything.

WHERE TO GET HELP

If you are confused, check out the IRS website. It has a useful Q&A on the new form. The IRS Withholding Estimator is particularly helpful, walking employees through the process — something new and existing workers should consider.

Your human resources or payroll department can direct you toward helpful information but cannot provide advice. If you need additional help, consult a tax professional.

"Perhaps initially it is going to be difficult for people because it is a change," said Jacobsohn. "But I suspect over time it will make it easier for people." □

Associated Press



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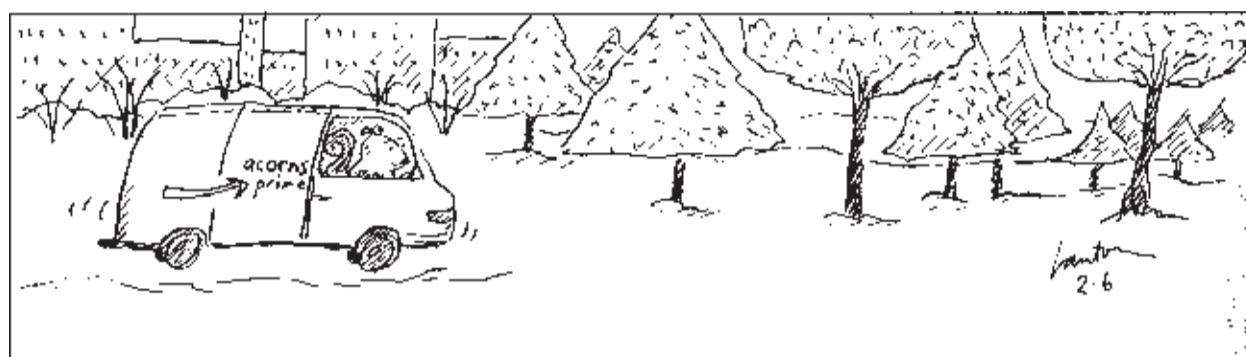
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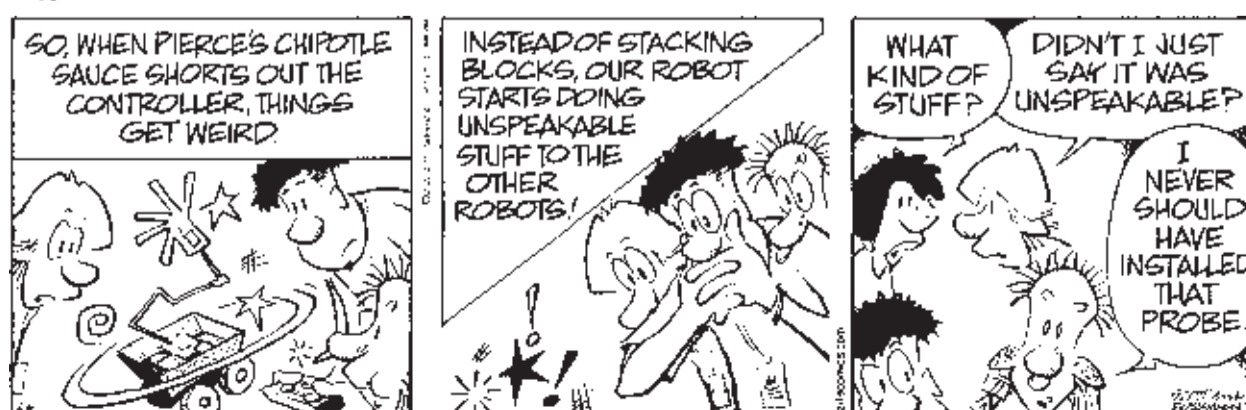
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5			8				1
		9	3		6	4	
	8						2
7	2					5	
	3					7	6
	1					3	
	8	7		4	5		
4			5				8

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

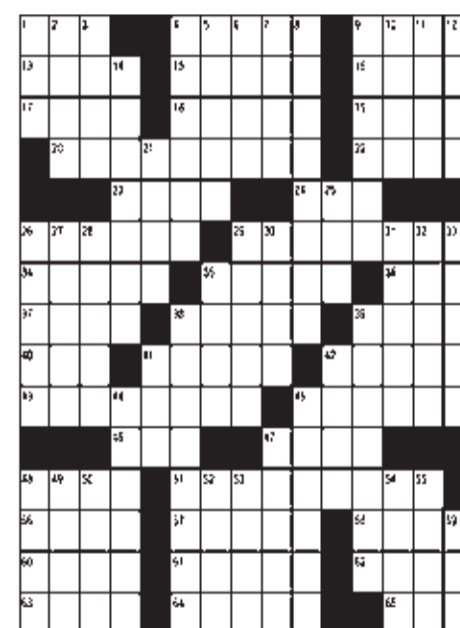
1	8	9	3	5	2	6	4	7
6	4	3	7	9	1	8	2	5
7	2	5	4	8	6	1	3	9
5	3	2	6	7	8	9	1	4
4	9	6	2	1	5	7	8	3
8	1	7	9	4	3	2	5	6
9	5	8	1	6	4	3	7	2
3	7	4	8	2	9	5	6	1
2	6	1	5	3	7	4	9	8

ACROSS

- 1 Deadly squeeze
- 4 Singer Lou
- 9 Get out!
- 13 Thousand
- 15 Hatred
- 16 Bage's center
- 17 Bender speed
- 18 Fargo or Reed
- 19 Go upward
- 20 Worldwide
- 22 Mysterious shlings
- 23 Lunch hour
- 24 DNA analysis
- 26 Vacuities
- 29 Cowboy hats
- 34 Piece of china
- 35 Picked
- 36 Police officer
- 37 Has a bug
- 38 Most terrible
- 39 "I'll be there" wear it
- 40 Last biblical bk.
- 41 Bakery display
- 42 Horning birds
- 43 Shock
- 45 Flew high
- 46 Inquire
- 47 TV's "Let's Make a Deal"
- 48 a test passed easily
- 51 Horrifying
- 56 Soft drink
- 57 Fargo
- 58 Christmas card
- 60 Actor West
- 61 Prank
- 62 Hurricane wind
- 63 Moniker
- 64 Bread ingredient
- 65 FDA's successor

DOWN

- 1 Gift topper
- 2 Pea's Harbor location
- 3 Related
- 4 Cowboy competitions
- 5 Decorate
- 6 Takes 1st prize
- 7 moth: green insect
- 8 Dinkiest
- 9 Bushes
- 10 Hairs
- 11 Additional
- 12 Got pegs
- 14 Small ponds
- 21 Cast a ballot
- 25 Dined
- 26 Take apart: disassemble
- 27 Crafter
- 28 Heating bar
- 29 Grate cheese
- 30 Fing
- 31 Dark yellow
- 32 Loop with a slipknot
- 33 Vies per hour
- 35 Rum mixer
- 38 with sleaz
- 39 Making a right



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

NHL	URBAN	CRIB
YOYO	MOORE	HULA
OOPS	PUNCTUALLY	
UNO	DINES	PRESS
THIRD	RPM	
ADHERE	GUESTS	
GREAT	PALER	AIM
EAST	LOBES	ABLE
SKI	SAUCE	LULLS
ESCORT	POKEYS	
ARK	GLOSS	
SCARE	STOAT	PAD
LACERATION	IOWA	
ARTS	FALSE	NORM
TESS	TREES	ANY

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- 41 Survivor network
- 42 Hockey score
- 44 Scissors
- 45 Opt for
- 47 Bette or Ossie
- 48 As straight arrow
- 49 Concluding musical passage
- 50 Cheese variety
- 52 Window piece
- 53 Stuffed bread
- 54 Webster or Wylea
- 55 Becomes firm
- 59 Ferris

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27/29 weeks remain

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with 27/19 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK #11
Birdie 3 \$9 K
26 weeks remain
1 BR wk 12/13
ground Floor
With 33/34 weeks remain
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each

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Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K
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21 weeks remain
2 sd Floor 18 weeks remain
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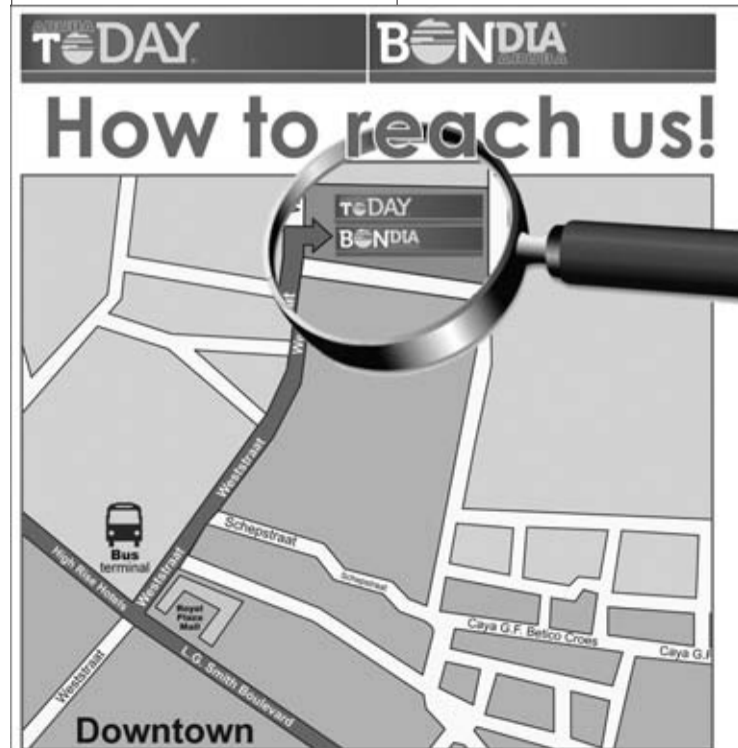
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Changing counts reveal inexact science of calorie labels

NEW YORK (AP) — Almonds used to have about 170 calories per serving. Then researchers said it was really more like 130. A little later, they said the nuts may have even less.

Calorie counting can be a simple way to help maintain a healthy weight — don't eat and drink more than you burn. And the calorie labels on food packaging seem like an immutable guide to help you track what you eat.

But the shifting numbers for almonds show how the figures printed on nutrition labels may not be as precise as they seem.

Last month, Kind said it was lowering the calorie counts for its snack bars, even though the ingredients weren't changing. The company cited studies that indicate nuts have fewer digestible calories than previously believed.

Conducted by government researchers with funding from nut producers, the studies show the inexact method of determining calorie counts established more than a century ago. The widely used system says a gram of carbohydrates and a gram of



In this June 22, 2019 file photo, a shopkeeper weighs California almonds for a customer at a shop in New Delhi, India.

Associated Press

protein each have 4 calories, while a gram of fat has around 9. Companies can also subtract some calories based on past estimates of how much of different foods are not digested.

But based on anecdotal comments, researchers suspected more of the nutrients in nuts may be expelled in the bathroom than previously estimated. "If they're not digested, then maybe the calorie content is not correct," said

David Baer, a co-author of the nut studies at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which funded the research along with nut producers like the Almond Board of California.

To test the hunch, Baer and colleagues gave 18 people meals with and without raw almonds and instructed them to return daily with their urine and stool packed in dry ice. The contents were analyzed to calculate that a serving

of almonds has about 130 digestible calories, rather than the widely used figure of 170.

A few years later, in 2016, another study by Baer and colleagues also looked at the effects of food processing. They found cooking and grinding helped break down cell walls in almonds, freeing more calories for digestion. Roasted almonds had slightly more digestible calories than raw almonds. When the nuts were ground

up into almond butter, nearly all the calories were digested.

Notably, the second study also found raw almonds had even fewer digestible calories than suggested by the first study. Baer attributed the discrepancy to variations in how people digest foods and natural differences in almonds themselves.

"It's unlikely you're going to get the exact same number every time you repeat the experiment," he said.

The almond studies are among several Baer has co-authored on the digestibility of nuts. Another last year was funded by the Global Cashew Council and found cashews had fewer calories than estimated.

Despite his findings, Baer said he thinks the calorie counts used for most other foods are fairly accurate. And even though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration lets companies use different methods to determine calorie counts, the agency says products aren't supposed to have more than 20% more calories than what's stated on labels. □



In this April 2016 photo provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, detector canine "Bello" works in a citrus orchard in Texas, searching for citrus greening disease, a bacteria that is spread by a tiny insect that feeds on citrus trees.

Associated Press

Dog sleuths sniff out crop disease hitting citrus trees

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dog detectives might be able to help save ailing citrus groves, research published Monday suggests.

Scientists trained dogs to sniff out a crop disease called citrus greening that has hit orange, lemon and grapefruit orchards in Florida, California and Texas. The dogs can detect it weeks to years before it shows up on tree leaves and roots, the researchers report.

"This technology is thousands of years old — the dog's nose," said Timothy Gottwald, a researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a co-author of the study. "We've

just trained dogs to hunt new prey: the bacteria that causes a very damaging crop disease."

Dog sleuths are also faster, cheaper and more accurate than people collecting hundreds of leaves for lab analysis, according to the study in the Proceedings of National Academies of Sciences. Citrus greening — also called huanglongbing — is caused by a bacteria that is spread by a tiny insect that feeds on the leaves and stems of citrus trees. Once a tree is infected, there's no cure.

The disease has also hurt citrus crops in Central and South America and Asia. In one experiment in a Texas grapefruit orchard,

trained dogs were accurate 95% of the time in distinguishing between newly infected trees and healthy ones.

"The earlier you detect a disease, the better chance you have at stopping an epidemic" by culling infected trees, explained Gottwald.

Matteo Garbelotto, who studies plants at the University of California, Berkeley, says the new research elevates the study of dog sleuths in orchards from anecdotal to field-tested, showing that dogs can detect an infection well before current methods. Garbelotto has been involved in similar research but had no role in new study. □

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24/7

Jane Austen, actress create PBS costume drama diversity

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Crystal Clarke could imagine herself playing the heroine of a period costume drama, a genre that regularly makes its way to TV and film screens with potential breakout roles for young actresses. But the African American tempered her expectations.

"I had hope for myself and I knew what I could do. But the sad part comes in: 'Oh, other people around me would never see me that way,'" said the New Jersey-born Clarke, a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland whose credits include "Black Mirror" and two "Star Wars" films.

Then Jane Austen came to the rescue. When the novelist died in the summer of 1817, she left behind an unfinished draft that served as source material for PBS' "Masterpiece" drama series "Sanditon" and offered Clarke an unexpected opportunity: Miss Lambe, the sole character of color in Austen's works.

When the script first came to her, Clarke, 26, approached it with understandable reservation. What would such a woman be if not in the background and servile?

"It's just going to be another

er (expletive) maid," she recalled thinking. "When I was reading it, I was like, 'Wait a minute, there's actually a lot to it.' I was really surprised at what kind of character this was they were trying to create."

Lambe is a historically credible figure, not modern wish fulfillment for diversity, according to an expert on Austen and her times.

"Race relations were a real thing and very complex in 18th-century Britain," said Devoney Looser, author of "The Making of Jane Austen" and an Arizona State University professor. There were an estimated 10,000 people of African or Afro-Caribbean descent in London as the 19th century approached, she said, about 1% of the city's population of around 1 million.

Austen, who famously referred in letters to "the little bit (2 inches wide) of ivory" as her artistic canvas and "four or five families in a county village" its contained focus, should not be viewed as uninformed or indifferent to the outside world, Looser said.

"This idea that she wasn't paying attention to history or politics is false. I think she was very keyed into history and politics," she said, which in Austen's time would have required an



This image released by PBS shows Crystal Clarke as Miss Lambe from the series MASTERPIECE: Sanditon," airing Sundays on PBS.

Associated Press

understanding of the anti-slavery movement. Two Austen works, "Mansfield Park" and "Emma," mention slavery, with one character defending another as "always rather a friend to the abolition."

Wherever Austen intended to take her incomplete novel, the task of developing it for "Sanditon" fell to screenwriter Andrew Davies, whose Austen adaptations include 1995's "Pride and Prejudice" miniseries. The characters he inherited this time around included the the briefly sketched

Lambe, a young, biracial heiress from the West Indies — the center of the British slave trade that was part of her heritage.

"There were only two words used by Jane Austen to describe Miss Lambe, 'chilly' and 'tender.' And I took 'chilly' very literally to mean that she found the climate very unpleasant," Davies said. "'Tender' is ambiguous. I took it to mean vulnerable, quick to see slights and prejudice in others, which she does find, of course." She became a more spirited character in Davies'

hands. Georgiana Lambe and the drama's central female character, Charlotte (Rose Williams), meet and bond as visitors to the seaside village of Sanditon. Charlotte's love interest, Sidney (Theo James) is the orphaned Lambe's guardian on the series airing through Feb. 23 and available online at pbs.org.

"It would seem quite natural that Charlotte would befriend her, because Charlotte is a very open-minded sort of character and quick to see injustice and call it out," Davies said. □

Radio host Limbaugh awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom

By MATTHEW DALY

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, during the State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Limbaugh, 69, a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, announced Monday he is battling advanced lung cancer.

Trump said the diagnosis was not good news, but added, "What is good news is that he is the greatest fighter and winner that you will ever meet."

A bearded Limbaugh, seated

next to first lady Melania Trump, looked stunned as the president announced the award. He eventually stood and saluted Trump and offered a thumbs-up to Republicans in the House chamber.

Melania Trump presented the award to Limbaugh, placing the blue-ribboned gold medal around his neck.

Trump thanked Limbaugh for "decades of tireless devotion to our country" and said the award recognized the millions of people a day Limbaugh speaks to and inspires, as well as his charity work.

Limbaugh said Monday he intends to work as much as possible. He also said he had focused more "intensely" in the past two weeks on what he called his "deeply personal relationship" with God.

Limbaugh is widely credited as key to Republicans' takeover of Congress in 1994 and has strongly supported Trump and other Republicans.

Limbaugh has frequently been accused of hate-filled speech, including bigotry and blatant racism through his comments and sketches such as "Barack the Magic Negro," a song featured on



Rush Limbaugh reacts as first Lady Melania Trump, and his wife Kathryn, applaud, as President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020.

Associated Press

his show that said former President Barack Obama "makes guilty whites feel good" and called Obama "black, but not authentically."

His popularity has survived brickbats and thrived despite personal woes. In 2003, Limbaugh admitted an addiction to painkillers and entered rehabilitation. □



This image released by National Geographic shows Dr. Amani, center, in the operating room in Syria in a scene from the Oscar nominated documentary "The Cave."

Associated Press

At the Oscars, 'The Cave' aims to provide hope to Syria

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Home is a complicated notion for Feras Fayyad, the director of the Oscar-nominated Syrian documentary "The Cave." His family home in Syria is believed to have been taken just weeks ago as President's Bashar al-Assad's Russian-backed forces seized the area. His family is living in temporary housing near the Turkish border. For several years, Fayyad has been living in exile in Copenhagen.

After a lengthy struggle to obtain a visa to attend Sunday's Academy Awards that included an outpouring of support from the film community, Fayyad finally arrived last week in Los Angeles. Being among filmmakers and friends he has made through his two Oscar-nominated films, Fayyad said, has been a relief. Even a little like being home.

"There's nothing harder than losing your home, nothing harder than losing everything around you," said Fayyad in an interview by phone. "But there is something that gives me hope that I can speak about this and bring more attention to this situation and remind the Syrian people: We are still human, we still have a dream, we still believe in justice."

For this little moment, I would love for 'The Cave' to bring hope to my country and my people."

"The Cave," Fayyad's follow-up to this Oscar-nominated "The Last Men in Aleppo" (which made him the first Syrian filmmaker nominated for an Oscar) is one of the five films nominated for best documentary at this Sunday's Academy Awards. Shot between 2012 and 2018, it depicts a subterranean medical facility in Eastern Ghouta during constant bombing by Syrian government forces and their Russian allies. The hospital lacks much of what it needs, including anesthetics and food, and

the incoming flow of injured and dead — many of them children — is ceaseless. A smell of chlorine fills the air after a chemical attack. The hospital was administered by Dr. Amani Ballour, a young woman trained as pediatrician, who stayed behind to save as many lives as she could. "They took the light," she intones in the film. "We are living in darkness." Ballour was the only woman leading a hospital in Syria; even as she's tending to wounded, she's also combating deeply ingrained misogyny.

"When I was young, no one tried to tell me that I had rights, that I can be something important. All the people around me said, 'You'll get married and have children,'" Ballour said in an interview by phone. "I wanted strongly to change this image, to tell young girls that you have rights, that you can be very important, that you are no different than the boys."

Like Fayyad, Ballour is coming to the Oscars from a life in exile. She fled Syria in 2018 after the hospital was overtaken and moved to Turkey. She's applying for asylum in Canada. The United States last year abruptly pulled forces out of Syria, a withdrawal that drew a rare bipartisan rebuke from Congress. President Donald Trump's administration has slashed the number of refugees it will accept from Syria.

Syria's nine-year civil war have been called the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world. Since December, the Syrian government has advanced into the country's last rebel stronghold in northern Syria. Following the more than 6 million refugees already caused by the war, the United Nations on Monday said half of a million more have been displaced since Dec. 1, 80% of them women and children.

It would be hard to fathom a more sorrowful place than the hospital of "The Cave." But it would be

equally difficult to imagine a more inspiring figure than Ballour.

"I wanted to bring all of the struggle against the sadness, the depression, the death, the daily attacks on the hospital, where we can see the most courageous people and a woman who is fighting to make a space for hope," says Fayyad. "We own the narrative here, completely, proudly." Fayyad and Ballour are both coming to the Academy Awards with a personal mission to call for justice in Syria and to signal to their countrymen that all is not hopeless.

"To be the voice for the people in Syria who are voiceless right now, to support them and try to get help in any way, this is my goal now," says Ballour, speaking in a midtown Manhattan high-rise. "They have nothing in Syria, nothing. Even buildings like this, we don't have."

Fayyad has twice been jailed by the Syrian government for a total period of 18 months, so his ability to shoot "The Cave" on location was challenging. He depended heavily on his local cinematographers, communicating remotely from Copenhagen. Four staff members of the hospital died during filming.

It was difficult for Fayyad and Ballour just to get to the Oscars partly due to the U.S. travel ban on seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Syria. Fayyad's visa was ultimately granted after protests were lodged by PEN America and the International Documentary Association. Preventing him to travel until last week had its own cost, diminishing how much time Fayyad had to do bring attention to Syria before the ceremony. (Another film about war-torn Syria, Waad Al-Kateab and Edward Watts' "For Sama," is also nominated for best documentary.)

But the campaign around "The Cave," a National Geographic film, is ongoing. □

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VIP	MON-THU 5:05 7:30
FRI	5:05 7:30 10:00
SAT	2:40 5:05 7:30 10:00
SUN	2:40 5:05 7:30
PBP	MON-THU 5:45 8:10
FRI	5:45 8:10 10:35
SAT	12:55 3:20 5:45 8:10 10:35
SUN	12:55 3:20 5:45 8:10
PBP	MON-FRI 4:35 7:00 9:25
SAT-SUN	2:10 4:35 7:00 9:25

SOPHIA LILLIS | ALICE KRIGE

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PH	MON-THU 6:30 8:40
FRI	6:30 8:40 10:50
SAT	2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40 10:50
SUN	2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40
PBP	MON-THU 5:25 7:30 9:35
FRI	5:25 7:30 9:35 11:40
SAT	1:15 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35 11:40
SUN	1:15 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

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SAT	2:10 4:55 7:40 8:35 10:20
SUN	2:10 4:55 7:40 8:35
PBP	MON-THU 5:10 7:30
FRI	5:10 7:30 10:00
SAT	2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
SUN	2:50 5:10 7:30
VIP	MON-FRI 4:00 6:40 9:20
SAT-SUN	1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20

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This Monday, Aug. 31, 2017, file photo shows a Barnes & Noble Booksellers store in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Barnes & Noble suspends reissues of classics with new images

NEW YORK (AP) — Barnes & Noble is withdrawing a planned line of famous literature reissued with multicultural cover images that has been met with widespread criticism on social media. "We acknowledge the voices who have expressed concerns about the Diverse Editions project at our Barnes & Noble Fifth Avenue store and have decided to suspend the initiative," Barnes & Noble announced in a statement Wednesday. The author Adriana Herrera had called the books, scheduled to be launched this week, "the classics in blackface." "Diverse Editions," a joint project between Barnes & Noble and Penguin Random House, featured 12 texts, including Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" and L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz." The words are the same, but on the cover, major characters are depicted with dark-skinned illustrations by artists of "different ethnicities and backgrounds," according to Barnes & Noble. "Diverse Editions" was announced at a time when the publishing industry is already facing scrutiny over the novel "American Dirt" and its depiction of Mexican life and culture. "Absolute TONE-DEAF decision-making," Mexican-American writer David Bowles, a

leading critic of "American Dirt," tweeted about "Diverse Editions." The decision also comes in February, which is Black History Month, an annual celebration of past and present achievement. To much disbelief online, the organizers of "Diverse Editions" had said they used artificial intelligence in reviewing more than 100 older books and determining whether the race or ethnicity of a character is specifically stated. Few would argue that Alice from "Alice in Wonderland" or the title characters of "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" are fitting for a tribute to black history. "They could have Googled, chosen a dozen books by actual Black authors that are classics & sent those out with fresh covers & a big event," author Mikki Kendall tweeted. "Add in bringing in contemporary Black authors to discuss these works & the whole thing is a win. They didn't do the easy or logical thing." In its statement Wednesday, Barnes & Noble acknowledged that the new covers were "not a substitute for black voices or writers of color, whose work and voices deserve to be heard." "The booksellers who championed this initiative did so convinced it would help drive engagement with these classic titles," according to the bookstore chain. □

'Homeland' stars say farewell to their Showtime spy series

By John Carucci

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As the Showtime spy thriller "Homeland" comes to an end, Claire Danes hopes that her portrayal of a character with bipolar disorder helps destigmatize mental illness. "I don't think there have been many shows or many opportunities in pop culture to focus on people who are wired a little differently from most, and experience the world through such a different filter," Danes told The Associated Press on the red carpet for the Showtime series' eighth and final season Monday night at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Danes, who plays CIA analyst Carrie Mathison, said she took seriously the task of playing the highs and lows of mania and depression. "I was really humbled by the process in my efforts



Actress Claire Danes attends Showtime's "Homeland" eighth and final season premiere at the Museum of Modern Art on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

to kind of make sense of it, and just have profound respect for people who live with this day in and day out," Danes said.

"Homeland" has also helped explain the complexity of national security through the work of the intelligence community. Before each season, principal cast members and producers meet with intelligence

professionals to discuss the issues that "keep them up at night."

Danes said these are the people that help keep the world safer.

"I'm in the land of make believe. You know, I take risks in a very qualified way. And these people do it for real. So, you know, all the respect in the world to them," Danes said. □

Kobe Bryant's books surging in popularity



Spectators pay tribute to basketball legend Kobe Bryant prior to the start of the Italian Basketball second division match between Rieti and Scafati in Rieti's PalaSojourne, Italy, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

Associated Press

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

Books created by Kobe Bryant's content company soared in popularity in the days following the basketball legend's death in a helicopter crash.

A trio of the books created by Bryant's Granity Studios will occupy the top three spots on the Middle Grade Hardcover portion of The New York Times' best-seller list for Feb. 16. "Epoca: The

Tree Of Ecrof" will be No. 1 on that list, followed by "Legacy And The Queen" and "The Wizenard: Training Camp."

All three of the books were written for children between the ages of 10 and 14. Bryant, in an interview with The Associated Press in 2018, said his mission for the books was "to combine education and inspiration and build around the concepts of what kids

go through when they are playing a sport."

Another of Bryant's books, "The Mamba Mentality: How I Play" has also reached No. 1 on Amazon's non-fiction sales charts this week. Bryant released that book in 2018, the same year that he won an Academy Award in the best animated short for his ode to the game called "Dear Basketball." Granity additionally produces a podcast series called "The Punies," tales about a boy who plays sports with friends. Bryant was also the creator and writer of the "Detail" sports analysis series of programs on ESPN, and Granity has said it will continue as Bryant wanted — "using creative education to inspire people to be the best versions of themselves."

Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others were killed on Jan. 26 when the helicopter they were riding in crashed into a hill in Calabasas, California. □

Kirk Douglas, longtime influential movie star, dies at 103

By HILLEL ITALIE

Kirk Douglas, the intense, muscular actor with the dimpled chin who starred in "Spartacus," "Lust for Life" and dozens of other films, helped fatally weaken the blacklist against suspected Communists and reigned for decades as a Hollywood maverick and patriarch, died Wednesday, his family said. He was 103.

"To the world, he was a legend, an actor from the golden age of movies who lived well into his golden years, a humanitarian whose commitment to justice and the causes he believed in set a standard for all of us to aspire to," his son Michael said in a statement on his Instagram account. Kirk Douglas' death was first reported by People magazine.

His granite-like strength and underlying vulnerability made the son of illiterate Russian immigrants one of the top stars of the 20th century. He appeared in more than 80 films, in roles ranging from Doc Holliday in "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" to Vincent van Gogh in "Lust for Life."

He worked with some of Hollywood's greatest directors, from Vincente Minnelli and Billy Wilder to Stanley Kubrick and Elia Kazan. His career began at the peak of the studios' power, more than 70 years ago, and ended in a more diverse, decentralized era that he helped bring about.

Always competitive, including with his own family, Douglas never received an Academy Award for an individual film, despite being nominated three times — for "Champion," "The Bad and the Beautiful" and "Lust for Life."

But in 1996, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded him an honorary Oscar. His other awards included a Presidential Medal of Freedom and a lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute.

He was a category unto himself, a force for change and symbol of endurance. In his latter years, he was a final link to a so-called



This May 4, 2017 file photo shows actor Kirk Douglas in Los Angeles. Douglas died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 at age 103.

Associated Press

"Golden Age," a man nearly as old as the industry itself.

In his youth, he represented a new kind of performer, more independent and adventurous than Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy and other giants of the studio era of the 1930s and 1940s, and more willing to speak his mind.

Reaching stardom after World War II, he was as likely to play cads (the movie producer in "Bad and the Beautiful," the journalist in "Ace in the Hole") as he was suited to play heroes,



This Aug. 9, 1962 file photo shows actor Kirk Douglas in New York.

Associated Press



This 1976 file photo shows father-son actors Kirk Douglas, left, and Michael Douglas in New York.

Associated Press

as alert to the business as he was at home before the camera. He started his own production company in 1955, when many actors still depended on the studios, and directed some of his later films.

A born fighter, Douglas was especially proud of his role in the the downfall of Hollywood's blacklist, which halted and ruined the careers of writers suspected of

pro-Communist activity or sympathies. By the end of the '50s, the use of banned writers was widely known within the industry, but not to the general public.

Douglas, who years earlier had reluctantly signed a loyalty oath to get the starring role in "Lust for Life," provided a crucial blow when he openly credited the former Communist and Oscar winner Dalton Trumbo for script

work on "Spartacus," the epic about a slave rebellion during ancient Rome that was released in 1960. (A few months earlier, Otto Preminger had announced Trumbo's name would appear on the credits for "Exodus," but "Spartacus" came out first.)

"Everybody advised me not to do it because you won't be able to work in this town again and all of that. But I was young enough to say to hell with it," Douglas said about "Spartacus" in a 2011 interview with The

screen: "I'm a loner clear down deep to my very guts."

The most famous words in a Douglas movie were spoken about him, but not by him. In "Spartacus," Roman officials tell a gathering of slaves their lives will be spared if they identify their leader, Spartacus. As Douglas rises to give himself up, a growing chorus of slaves jump up and shout, "I'm Spartacus!"

Douglas stands silently, a tear rolling down his face.

As Michael Douglas once observed, few acts were so hard to follow. Kirk Douglas was an acrobat, a juggler, a self-taught man who learned French in his 30s and German in his 40s.

Life was just so many walls to crash through, like the stroke in his 70s that threatened — but only threatened — to end his career. He continued to act and write for years and was past 100 when he and his wife published "Kirk and Anne: Letters of Love, Laughter, and a Lifetime in Hollywood."

He was born Issur Danielovitch to an impoverished Jewish family in Amsterdam, New York. His name evolved over time. He called himself Isidore Demsky until he graduated from St. Lawrence University.

He took the name Kirk Douglas as he worked his way through the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, choosing "Douglas" because he wanted his last name still to begin with "D" and "Kirk" because he liked the hard, jagged sound of the "K." Douglas was a performer as early as kindergarten, when he recited a poem about the red robin of spring. He was a star in high school and in college he wrestled and built the physique that was showcased in many of his movies. He was determined, hitchhiking to St. Lawrence as a teen and convincing the dean to approve a student loan. And he was tough. One of his strongest childhood memories was of flinging a spoonful of hot tea into the face of his intimidating father. □

Associated Press. "I think if I was much older, I would have been too conservative: 'Why should I stick my neck out?'"

Douglas rarely played lightly. He was compulsive about preparing for roles and a supreme sufferer on camera, whether stabbed with scissors in "Ace in the Hole" or crucified in "Spartacus."

Critic David Thomson dubbed Douglas "the manic-depressive among Hollywood stars, one minute bearing down on plot, dialogue and actresses with the gleeful appetite of a man just freed from Siberia, at other times writhing not just in agony but mutilation and a convincingly horrible death."

Douglas' personal favorite was the 1962 Western "Lonely are the Brave," which included a line of dialogue from a Trumbo script he called the most personal he ever spoke on